

Archie
★ 65TH ★
ANNIVERSARY

159 US \$2.25
CAN \$2.65

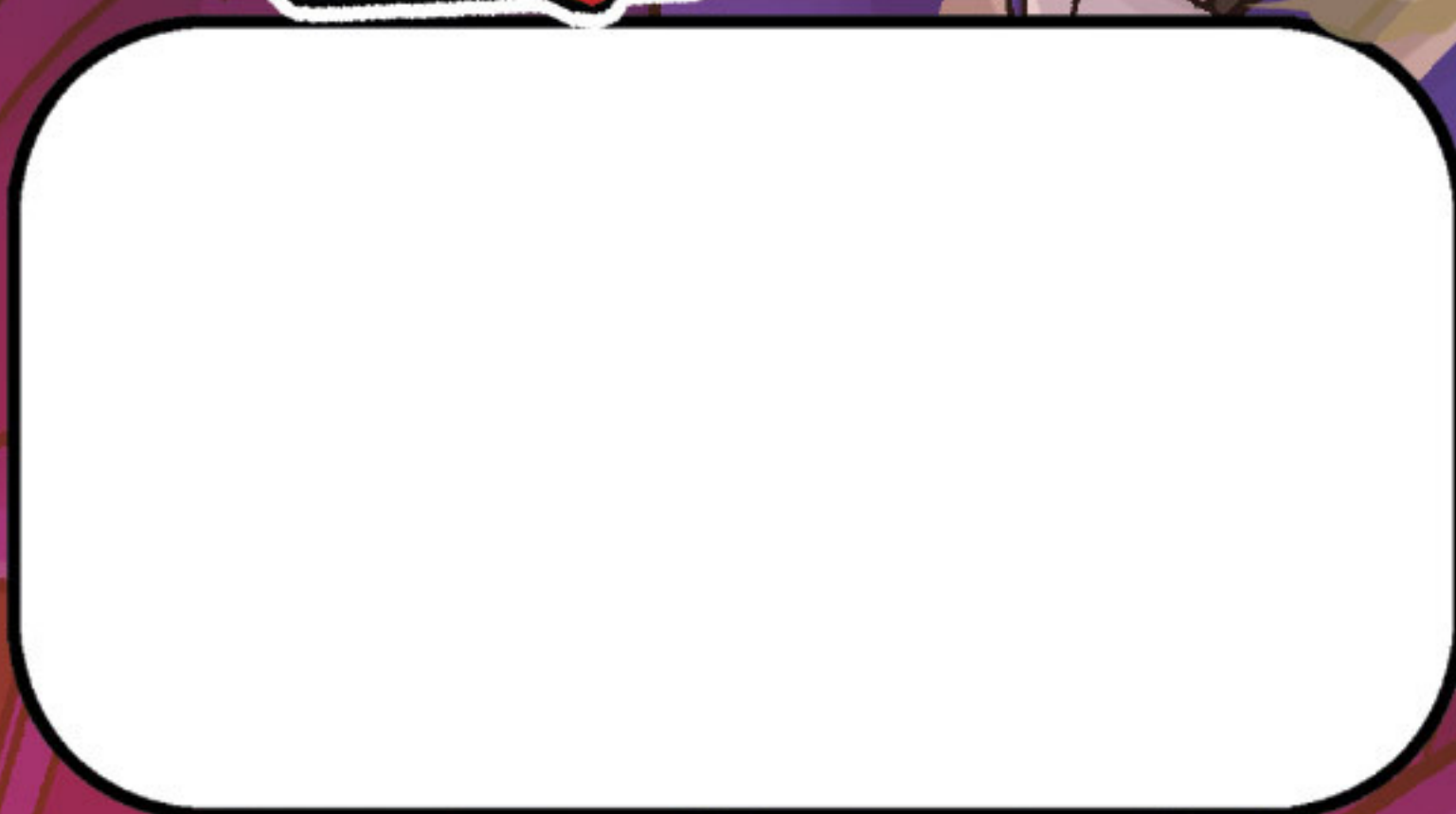
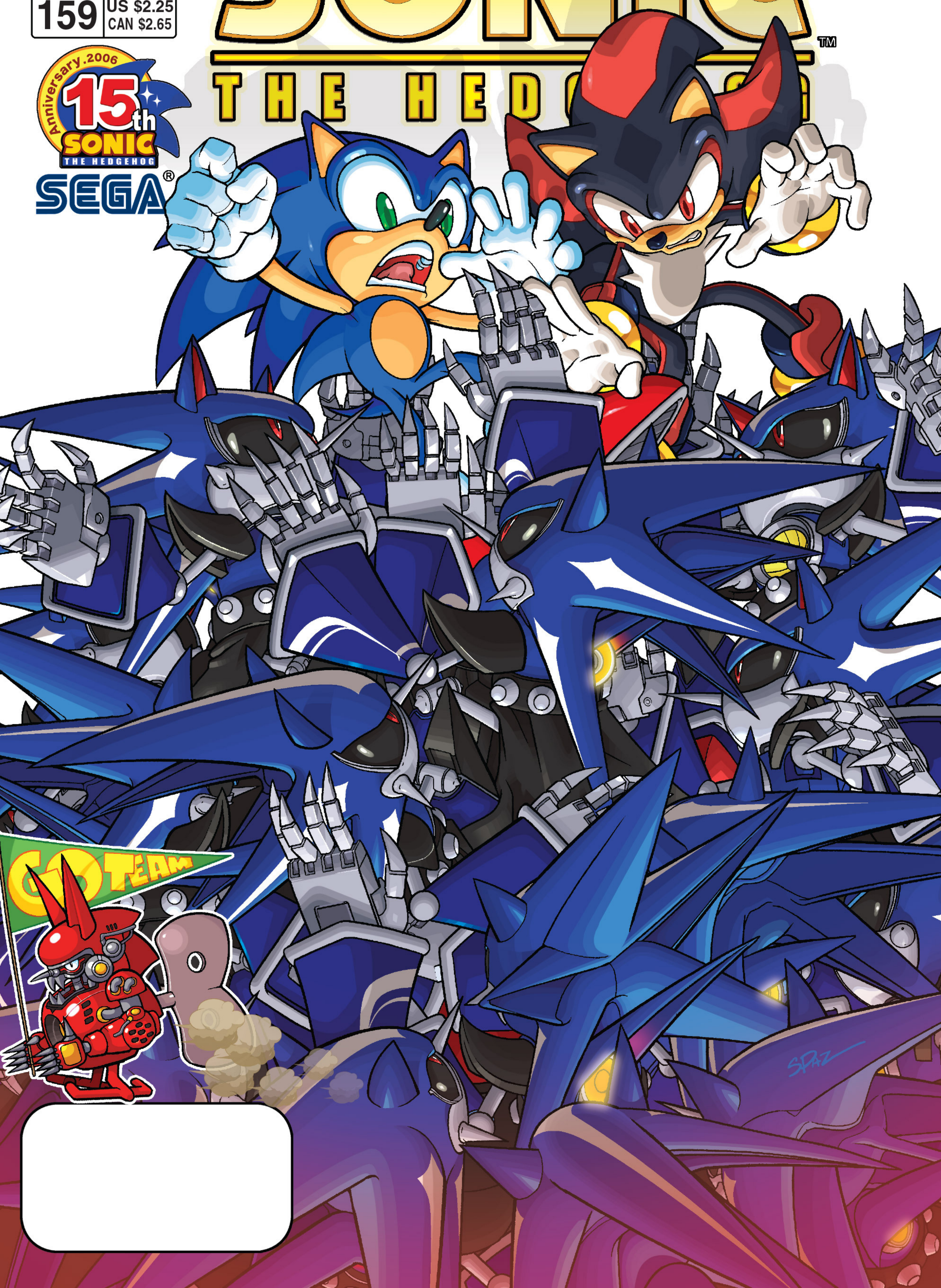
Anniversary 2006
15th
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
SEGA®

THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!

SONIC™

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

THE HEDGEHOG



CAN
SONIC

THE HEDGEHOG
SURVIVE THE THREAT
DESIGNED BY THOSE
WHO KNOW HIM
BEST?

SYSTEM REBOOT

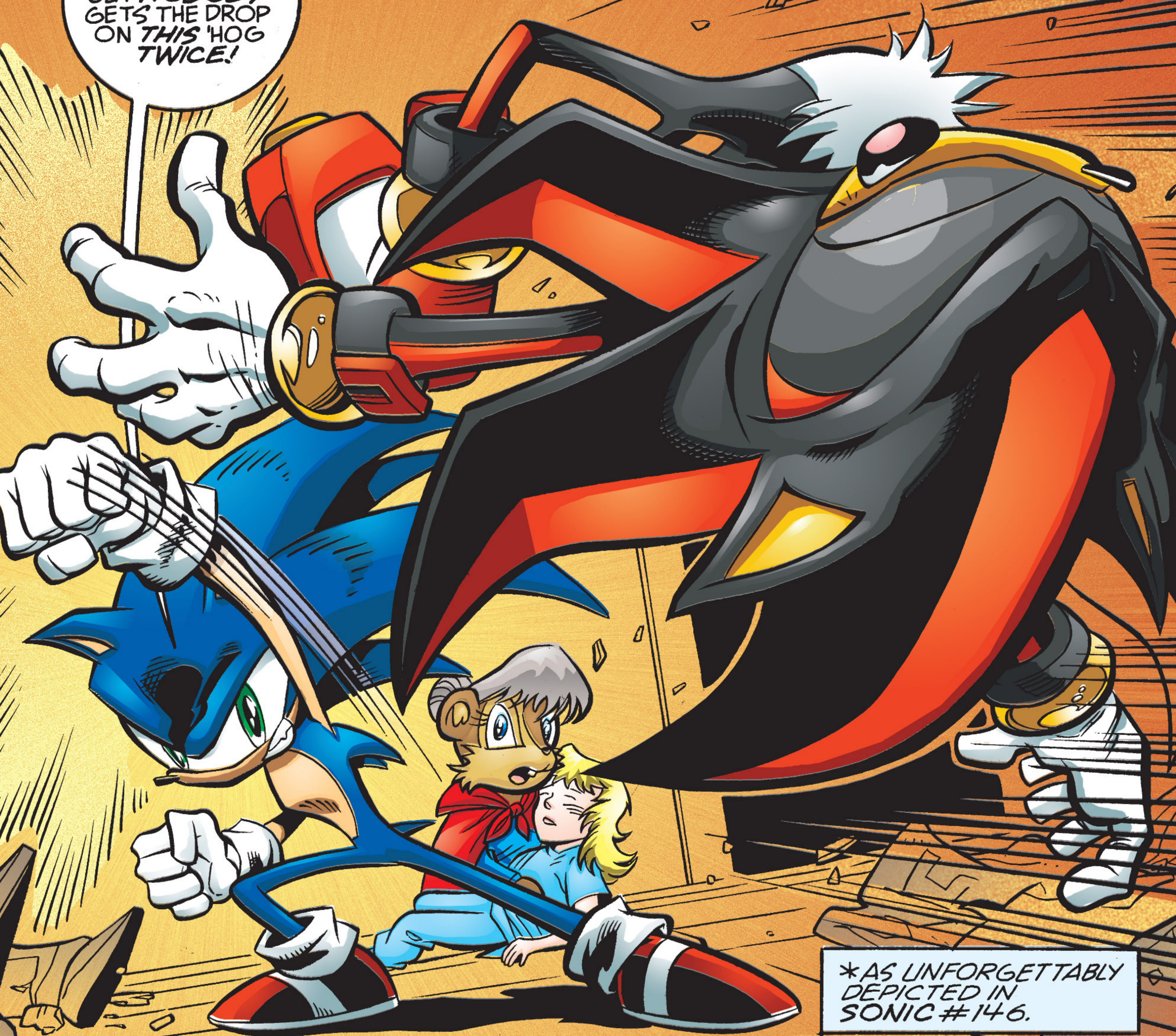
IF YOU MISSED OUR LAST TWO
ISSUES, JUST BUCKLE UP FOR
THE ACTION AND WE'LL EXPLAIN
AS WE GO ALONG!

WRITER:
KEN PENDERS
ARTIST:
RON LIM
INKER:
JIM AMASH
LETTERER:
JOHN WORKMAN
COLORIST:
JOSH & AIMEE RAY
COVER:
PAT "SPAZ" SPAZIANTE

EDITOR:
MIKE PELLERITO
MANAGING EDITOR:
VICTOR GORELICK
EDITOR IN CHIEF:
RICHARD GOLDWATER

SPECIAL THANKS
TO ROBERT LEFFLER
AND DYNA LOPEZ
AT SEGA LICENSING

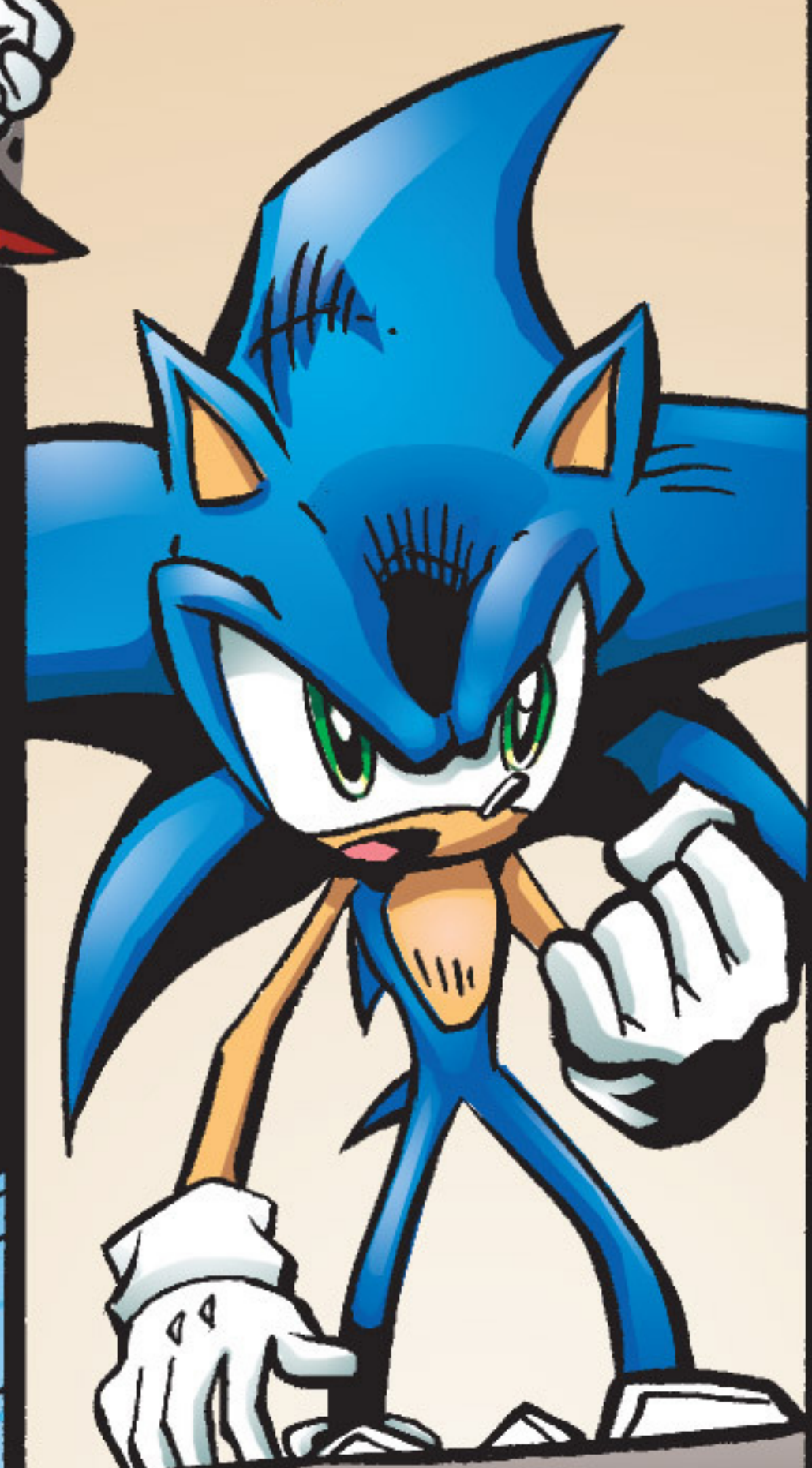
YOU GOT
YOUR LICKS IN
LAST TIME--*
BUT NOBODY
GETS THE DROP
ON THIS 'HOG
TWICE!



*AS UNFORGETTABLY
DEPICTED IN
SONIC #146.



READY TO
CALL IT A
DAY?



I HAVEN'T
EVEN
STARTED,
HEDGEHOG!

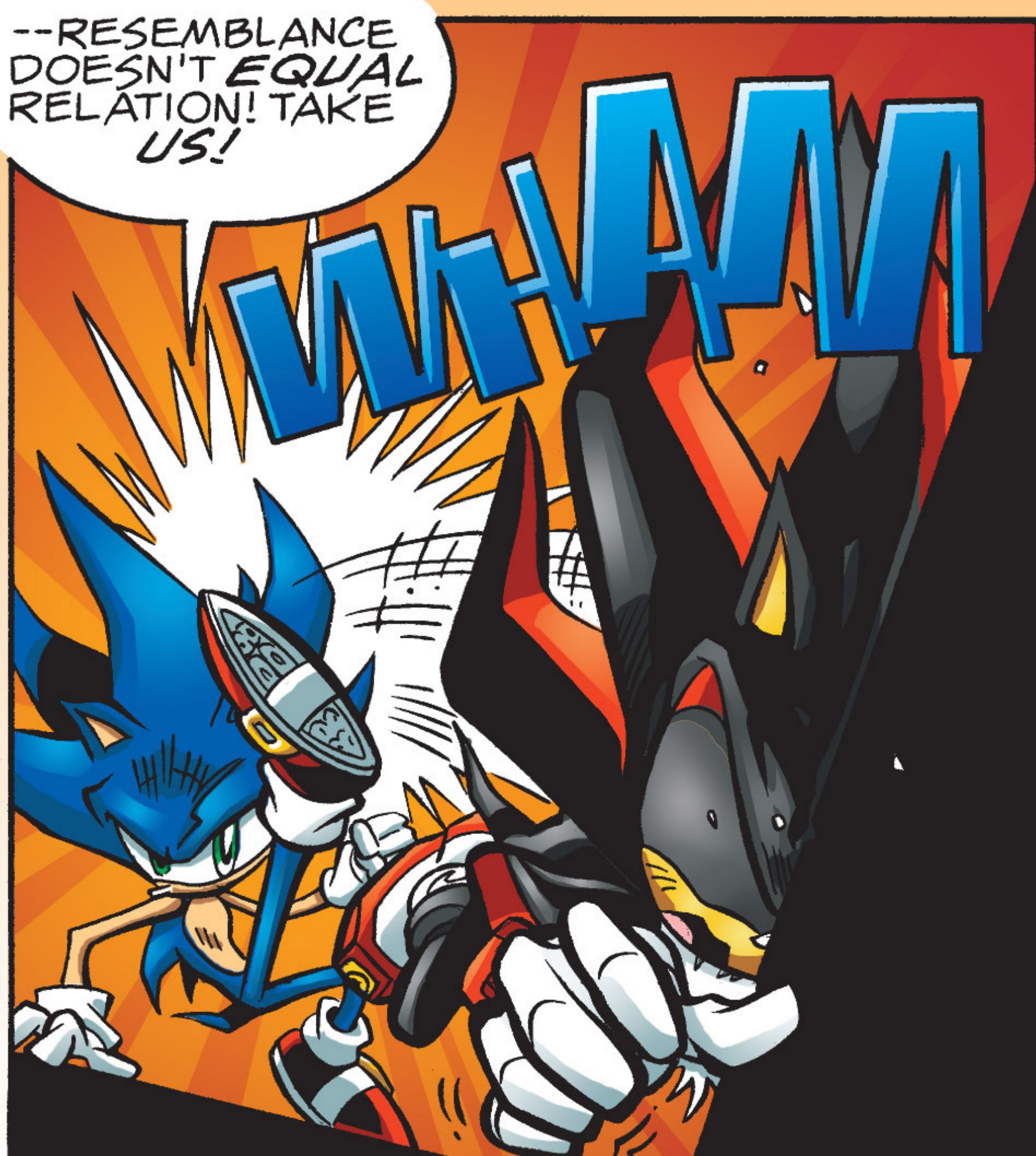
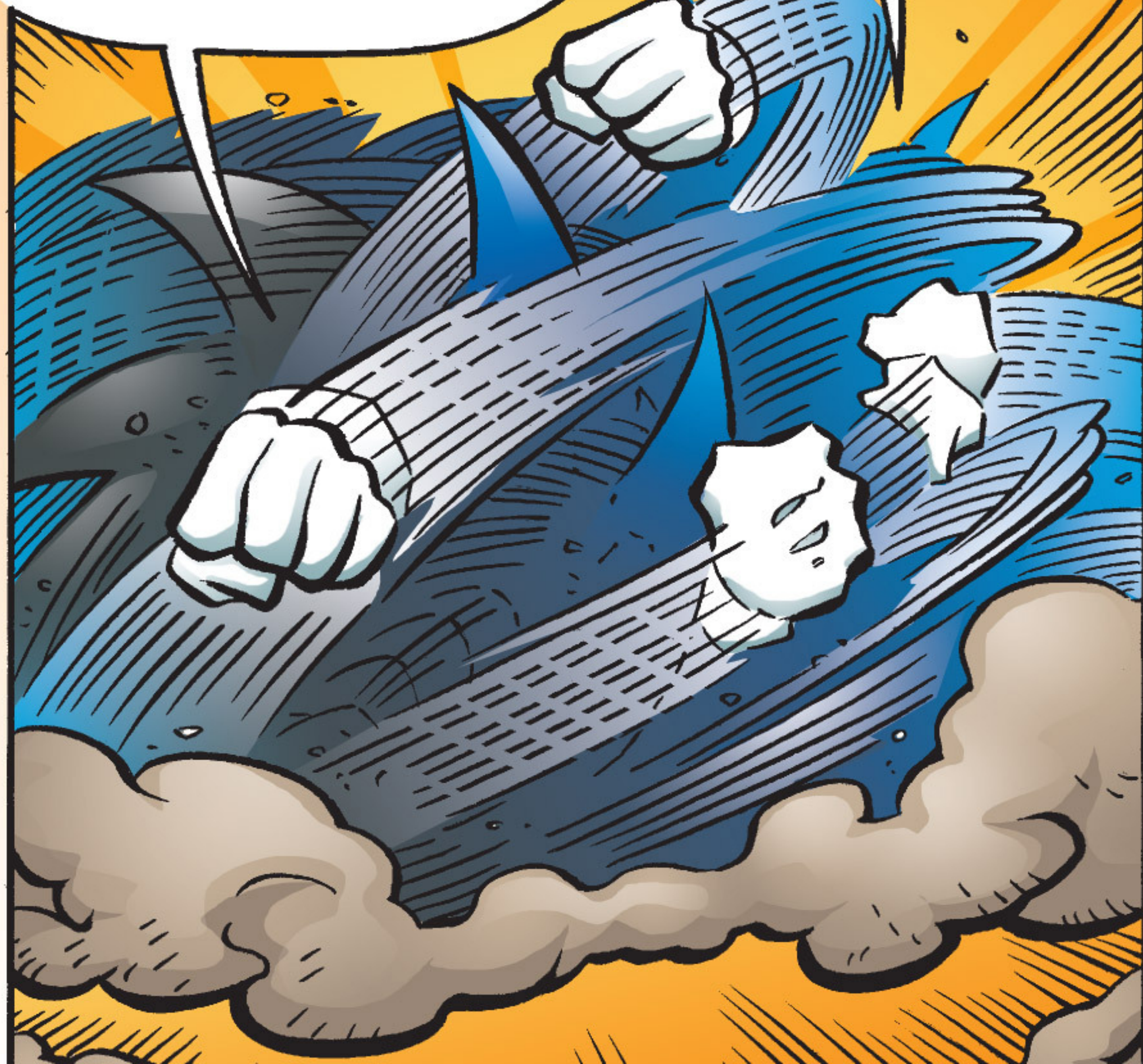
IN CASE
YOU HADN'T
NOTICED, PAL
--I'M **NOT** ONE
OF THE **SHINY**
METALLIC
MODELS
TRASHING
EVERYTHING
IN SIGHT!

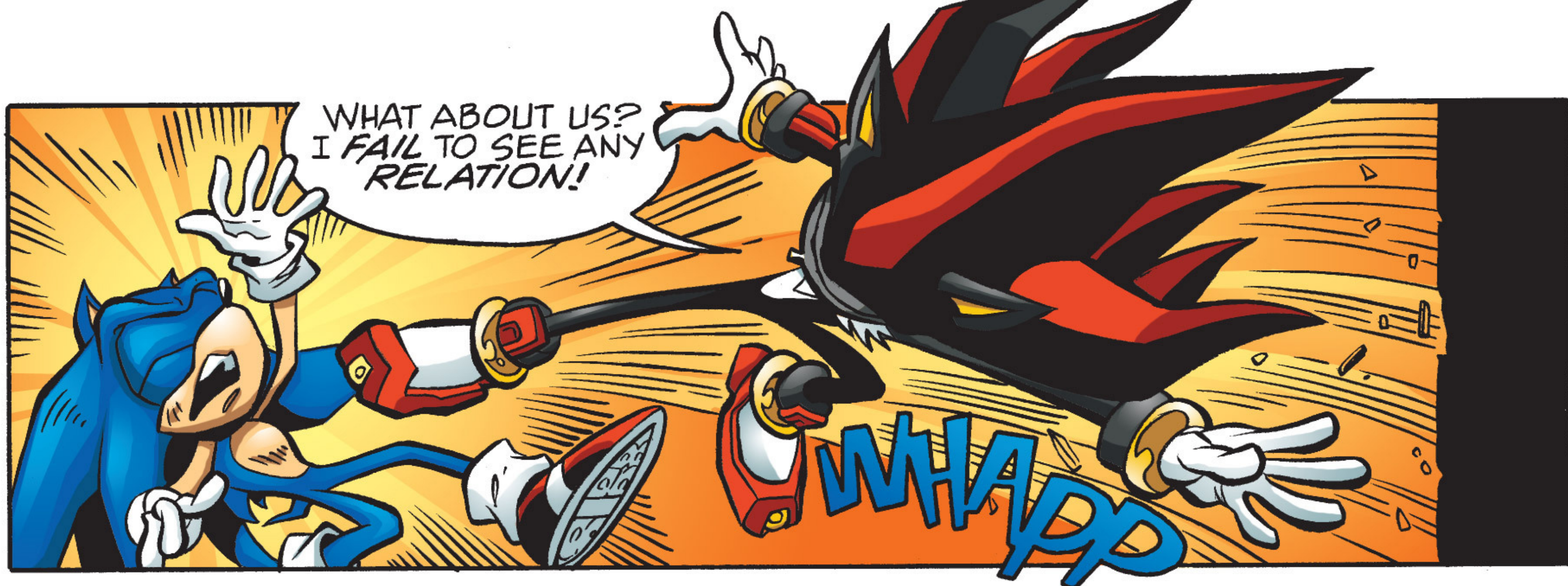


THEN HOW ELSE
TO EXPLAIN THEIR
VERY **LIKENESS** OF
YOU--WHICH IMPLIES
AT LEAST SOME
CONNECTION!

YEAH,
WELL--

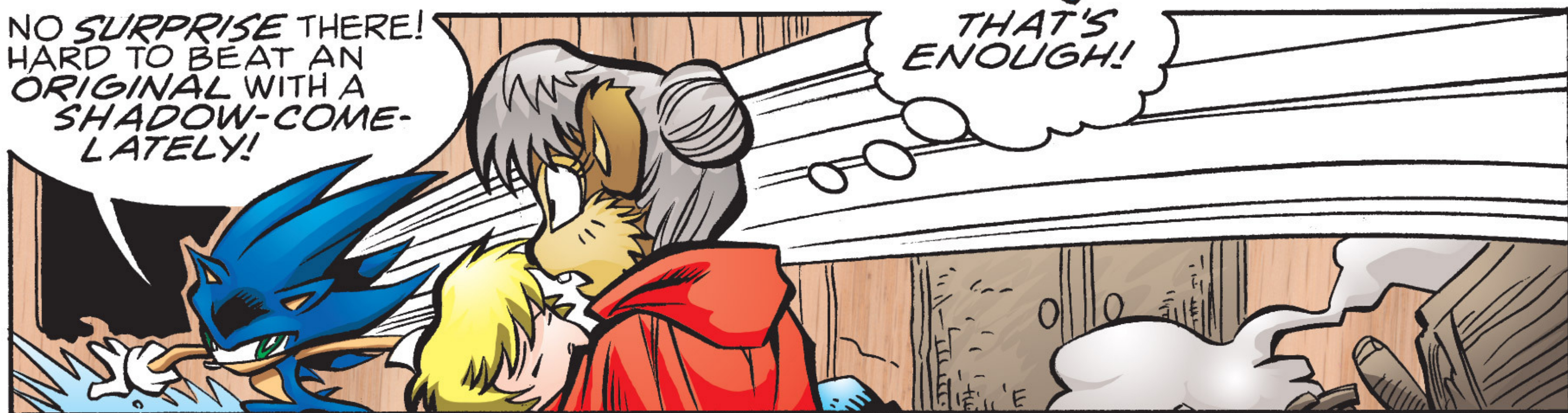
--RESEMBLANCE
DOESN'T **EQUAL**
RELATION! TAKE
US!





WHAT ABOUT US?
I FAIL TO SEE ANY
RELATION!

WHAP



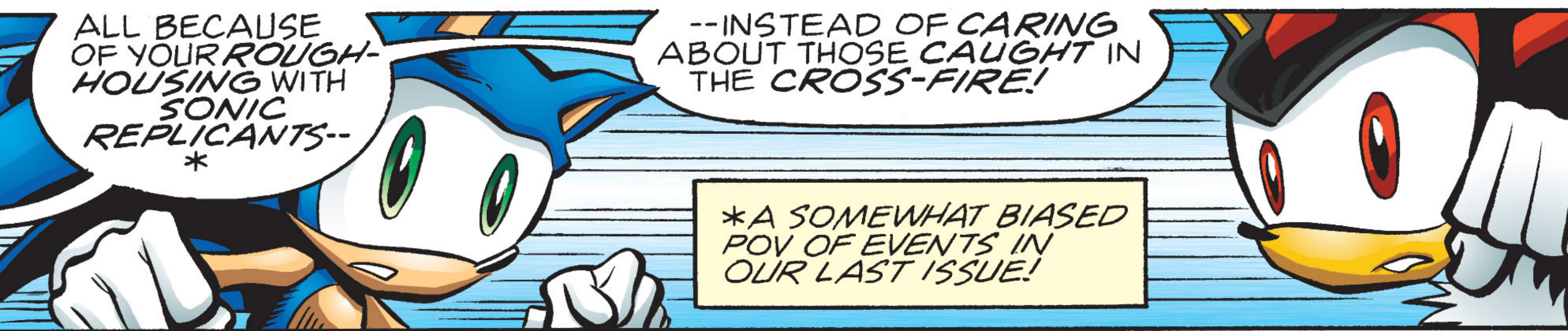
NO SURPRISE THERE!
HARD TO BEAT AN
ORIGINAL WITH A
SHADOW-COME-
LATELY!

THAT'S
ENOUGH!



IN CASE YOU TWO FOOLS
HADN'T NOTICED, THERE'S A
LITTLE GIRL HERE
LYING INJURED--

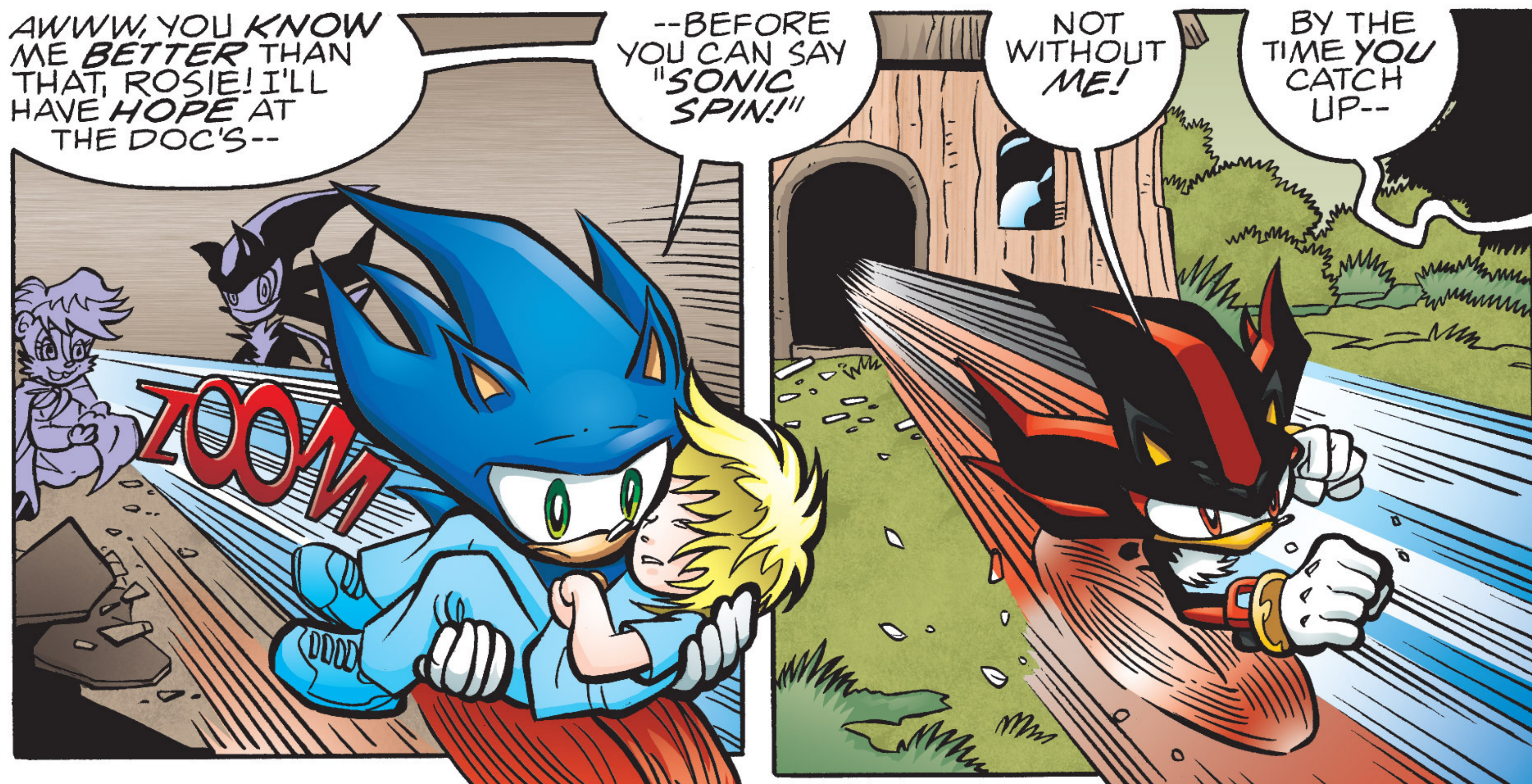
--AND MOST
CERTAINLY
IN NEED
OF MEDICAL
ATTENTION!



ALL BECAUSE
OF YOUR ROUGH-
HOUSING WITH
SONIC
REPLICANTS--
*

--INSTEAD OF CARING
ABOUT THOSE CAUGHT IN
THE CROSS-FIRE!

*A SOMEWHAT BIASED
POV OF EVENTS IN
OUR LAST ISSUE!



AWWW, YOU KNOW
ME BETTER THAN
THAT, ROSIE! I'LL
HAVE HOPE AT
THE DOC'S--

--BEFORE
YOU CAN SAY
"SONIC
SPIN!"

NOT
WITHOUT
ME!

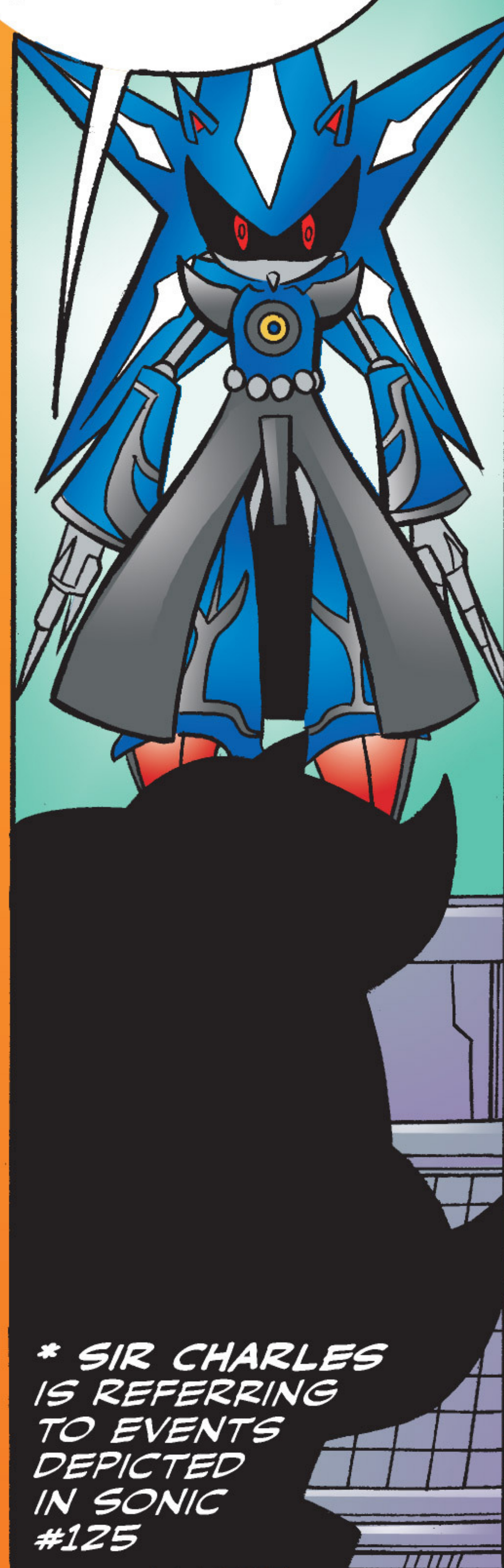
BY THE
TIME YOU
CATCH
UP--

ZOOM

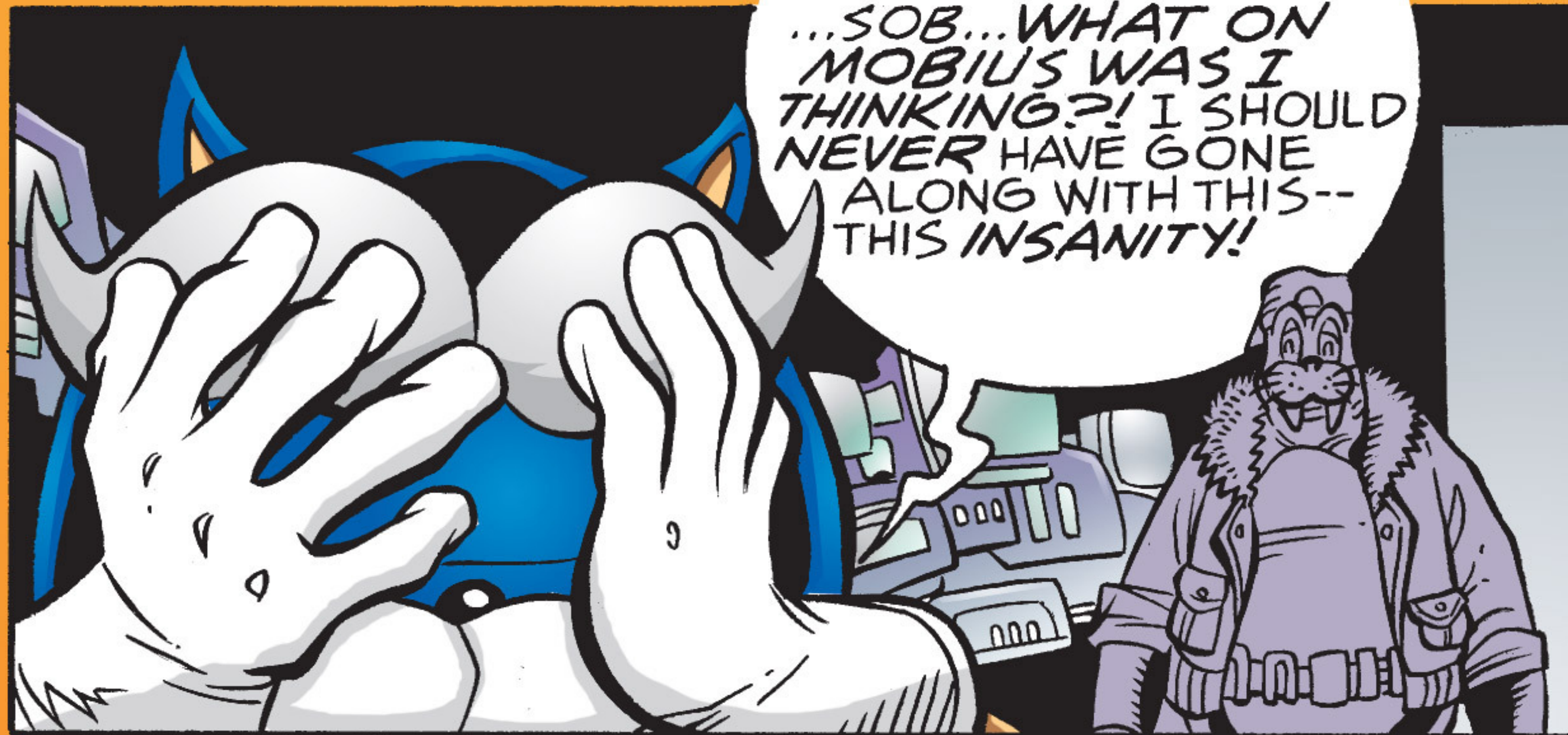
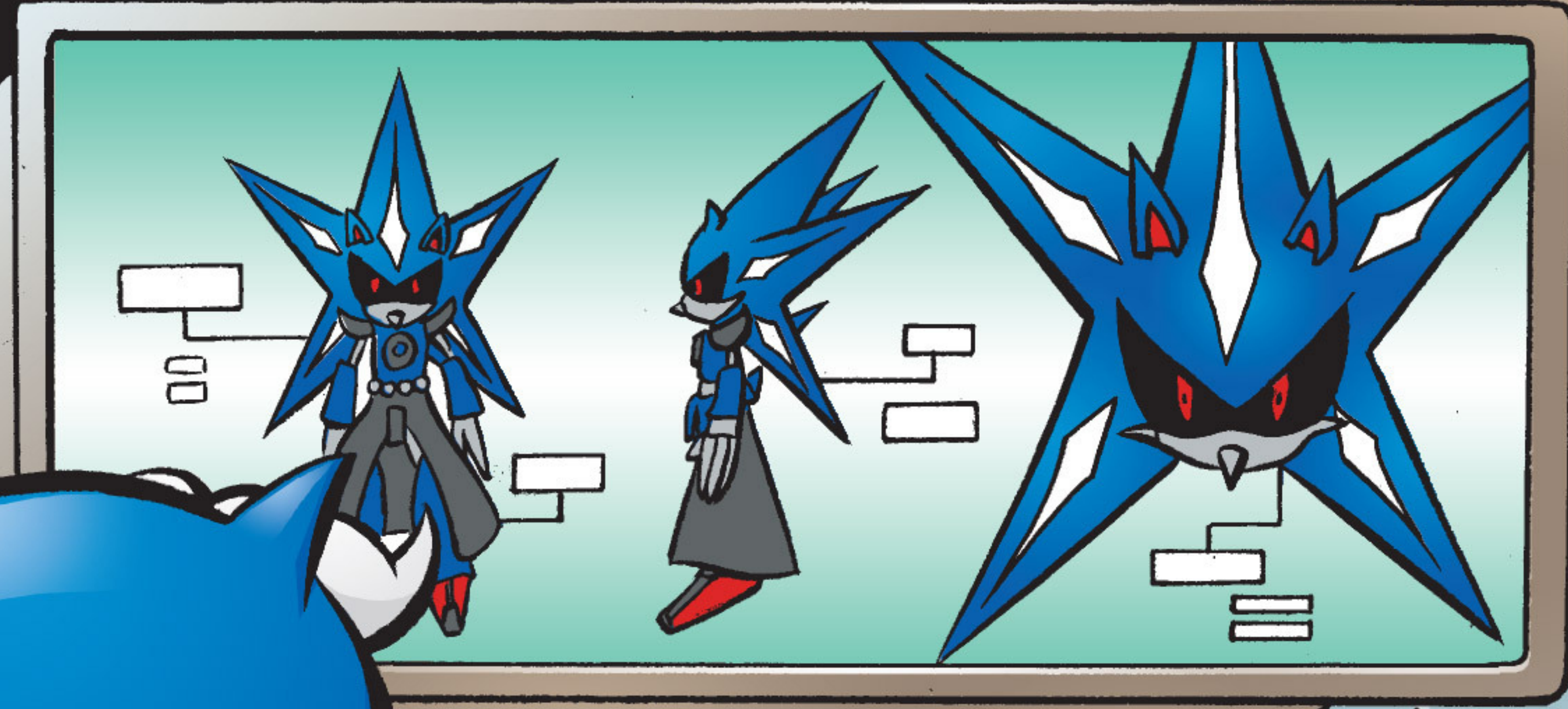
"--SHE'LL BE WITH
DOC AT THE CASTLE!..."

OUTER SHELL
CONSTRUCTED OF A
SPECIAL IRON-
TITANIUM ALLOY!
ITS HARDWARE WOULD
BE STATE-OF-THE-ART,
WERE IT NOT FOR THE
NANITES! EXACTLY
ONE HUNDRED
WERE BUILT TO
PROTECT THE
KINGDOM!

SO NATURALLY,
WE DESIGNED
THE METAL SONIC
TROOPERS IN
THE IMAGE OF
OUR GREATEST
WARRIOR--
WHOM WE
BELIEVED HAD
FALLEN IN THE
LINE OF DUTY!*

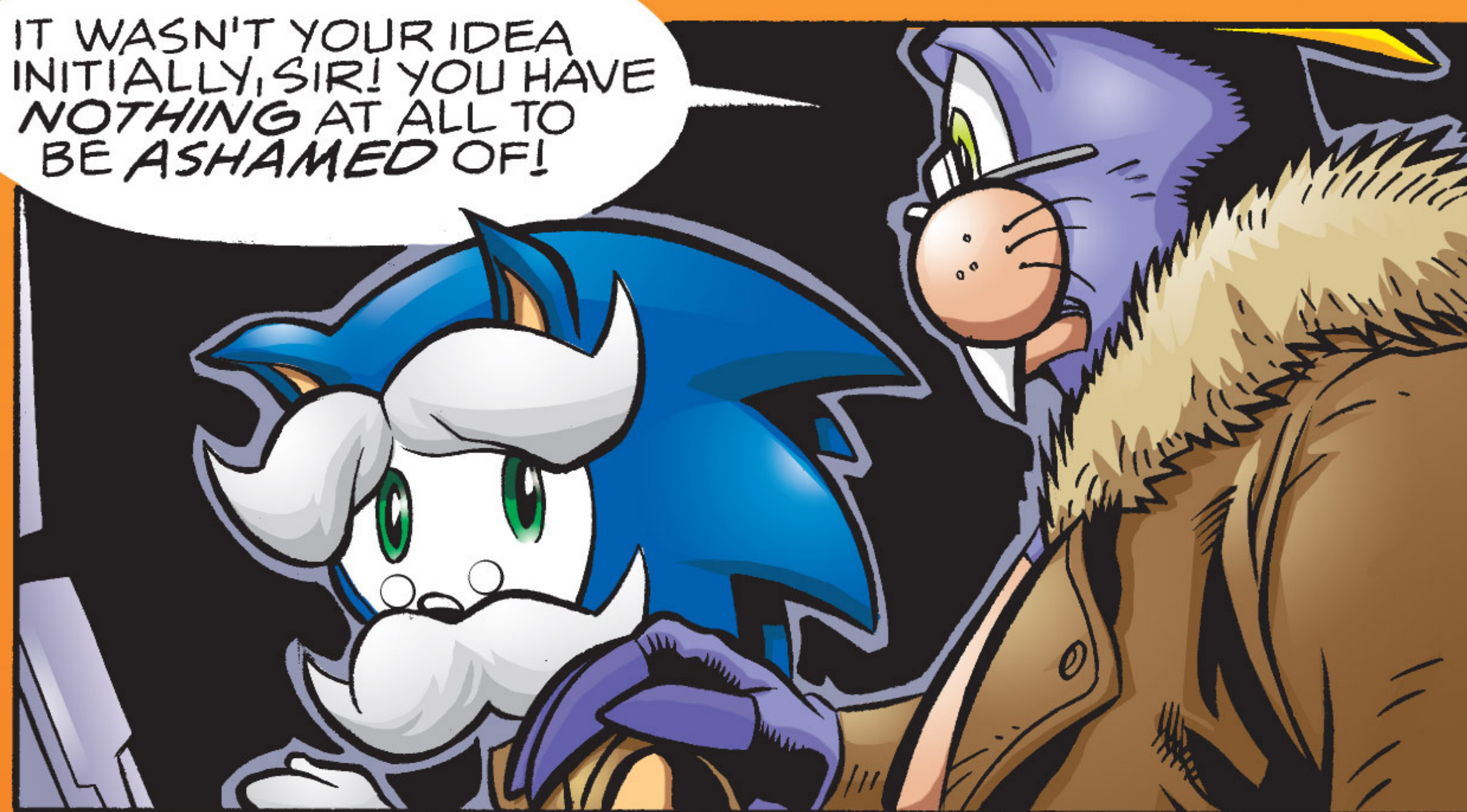


* SIR CHARLES
IS REFERRING
TO EVENTS
DEPICTED
IN SONIC
#125



...SOB...WHAT ON
MOBIUS WAS I
THINKING?! I SHOULD
NEVER HAVE GONE
ALONG WITH THIS--
THIS INSANITY!

IT WASN'T YOUR IDEA
INITIALLY, SIR! YOU HAVE
NOTHING AT ALL TO
BE ASHAMED OF!



BUT WE
CREATED THEM
--AND NOW WE
HAVE TO
DEFEND
AGAINST
THEM!

IF I'VE
LEARNED
ANYTHING
AT ALL FROM
YOU--



"--IT'S NOT THE INVENTION
THAT CAUSES THE PROBLEM,
BUT THE PURPOSE FOR
WHICH THE OPERATOR
UTILIZES IT."

LOOK AT THEM!!!
THE MOST FEARSOME
DESTRUCTIVE FORCE YET
UNLEASHED ON THE
PLANET--

--AND I HAD
NOTHING TO DO
WITH IT!

HOW
CAN THIS
BE?

YET THEY DESTROYED MY COMMAND
CENTER*--AND WHATEVER SOURCE
ACTIVATED THEM ALSO COMPRO-
MISED MY SYSTEM SAFEGUARDS!*

*LAST ISSUE,
**SONIC # 157.

NOW THEY'RE
INVADING KNOT-
HOLE--WREAKING
HAVOC ON MY
MOST HATED
OF ENEMIES!

ASTOUNDING!

SUCH DISREGARD
FOR LIFE, LIMB, AND
PROPERTY! WHAT
SUPREME
IRONY--

--THAT I, WHO
MADE ALL OTHERS
TREMBLE, SHOULD
NOW BE REDUCED
TO THEIR LEVEL--

"--DEPENDENT
UPON THAT
BLASTED HEDGE-
HOG TO SAVE THE
DAY..."

I WAS CREATED
FOR A PURPOSE
STILL UNKNOWN
TO ME!

WHAT I DO
KNOW IS THERE
HAVE BEEN ONLY
TWO SENTIENTS
WHO HAVE EVER
EXPRESSED
COMPASSION
FOR ME!

I FAILED
LONG AGO
TO SAVE
MARIA--*

*AS SADLY
RECORDED IN
SONIC # 98.

--BUT SURELY
THERE IS
SOMETHING
I CAN DO
TO SAVE
HOPE!!!

HEY!!!

THOUGH I DON'T
UNDER-
STAND
WHAT
ENABLES
ME TO
CREATE THE
PORTAL--

"--AT THIS
MOMENT, THAT IS
THE LEAST OF MY
CONCERNS!"

...CHAOS
CONTROL!?!
BTOM

MEANWHILE, BACK
AT CASTLE ACORN--
FIVE MINUTES
AGO...

ANY SIGN OF
THE INVADERS,
COMMANDER
D'COOLETTE?

EVERYONE
TO THEIR
STATIONS,
MATES!

NOT YET, SIRE!
CONSIDERING
THE TRACKING
SYSTEM
SHOWS THEM
MOVING TRES FAST
ALA SONIC--

--THE REAL
MYSTERY IS WHY
THEY HAD YET
TO BE SIGHTED!
WHY THE
DELAY?

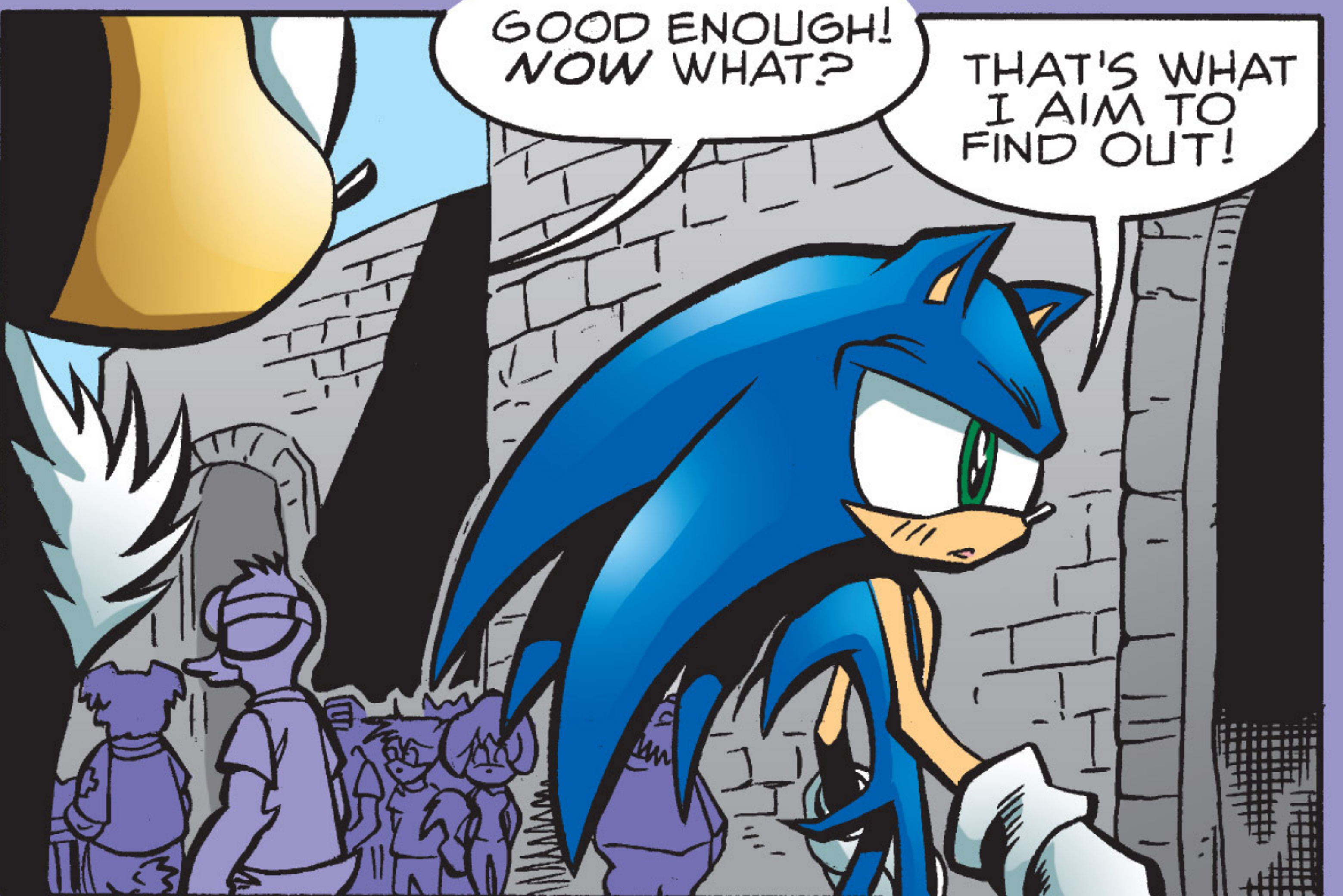
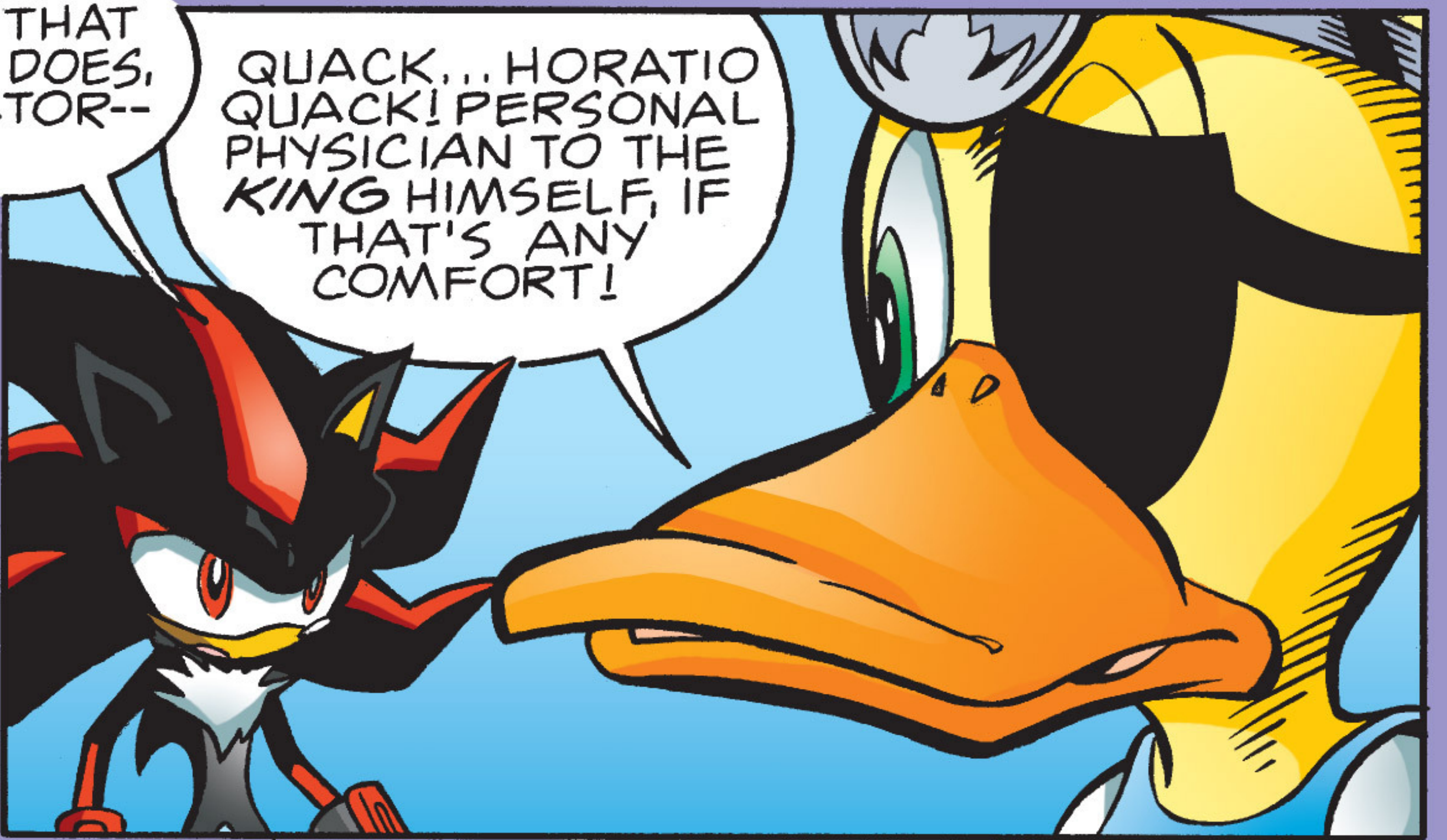
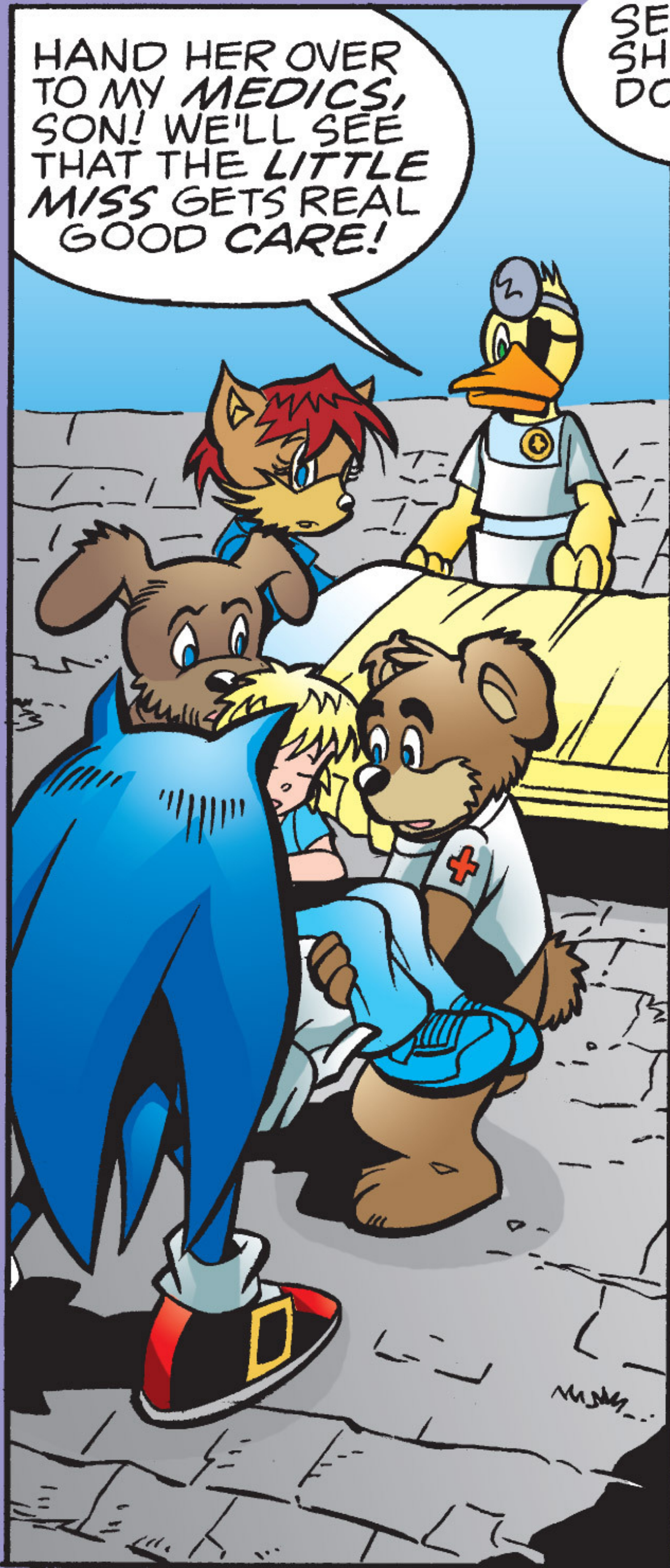
YOU SPOKE
TOO SOON,
COMMANDER!

THERE THEY ARE--
TEARING THROUGH
KNOTHOLE CENTER
ITSELF!

SO MUCH
FOR THE
JAMMING
FAIL-
SAFES!

WHAT
TH--?!!!

BTWOOM!!



SONIC! THANK THE
SOURCE YOU'RE
ALL RIGHT!

I'M STILL TRYING TO
FIGURE OUT WHY YOUR
WHACKED-OUT
DEFENSE PROJECT WAS
EVER **GREENLIGHTED**
IN THE FIRST PLACE!

--SINCE OL'
ROBO-BUTT
WOULD BE
JUST THE
MEGALO-
MANIAC
TO DO
SO?!

DID ANY OF THE
GENIUSES AROUND
HERE EVER CONSIDER
IF ANYONE COULD
BREACH OUR
CYBER-SECURITY
MEASURES--

THAT'S ABOUT
ALL I'LL BE
THANKFUL FOR!

JUST BECAUSE
HE **CREATED** METAL
SONIC **MANY** TIMES
OVER DOESN'T MEAN HE
OWNS THE **PATENT**!

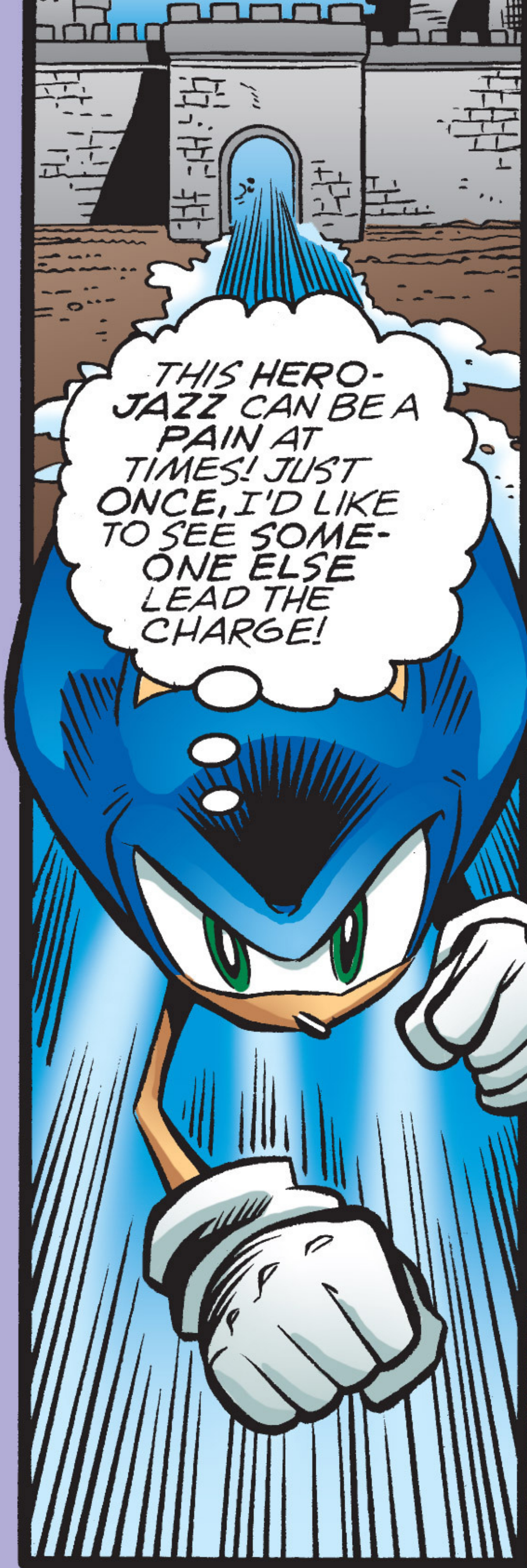
AND IT DOESN'T
GIVE **ANYONE**
ELSE THE RIGHT
TO INVOLVE ME
IN THEIR
CRACKPOT
SCHEMES!

I WASN'T
THE ONE WHO
AUTHORIZED
THE PROJECT!

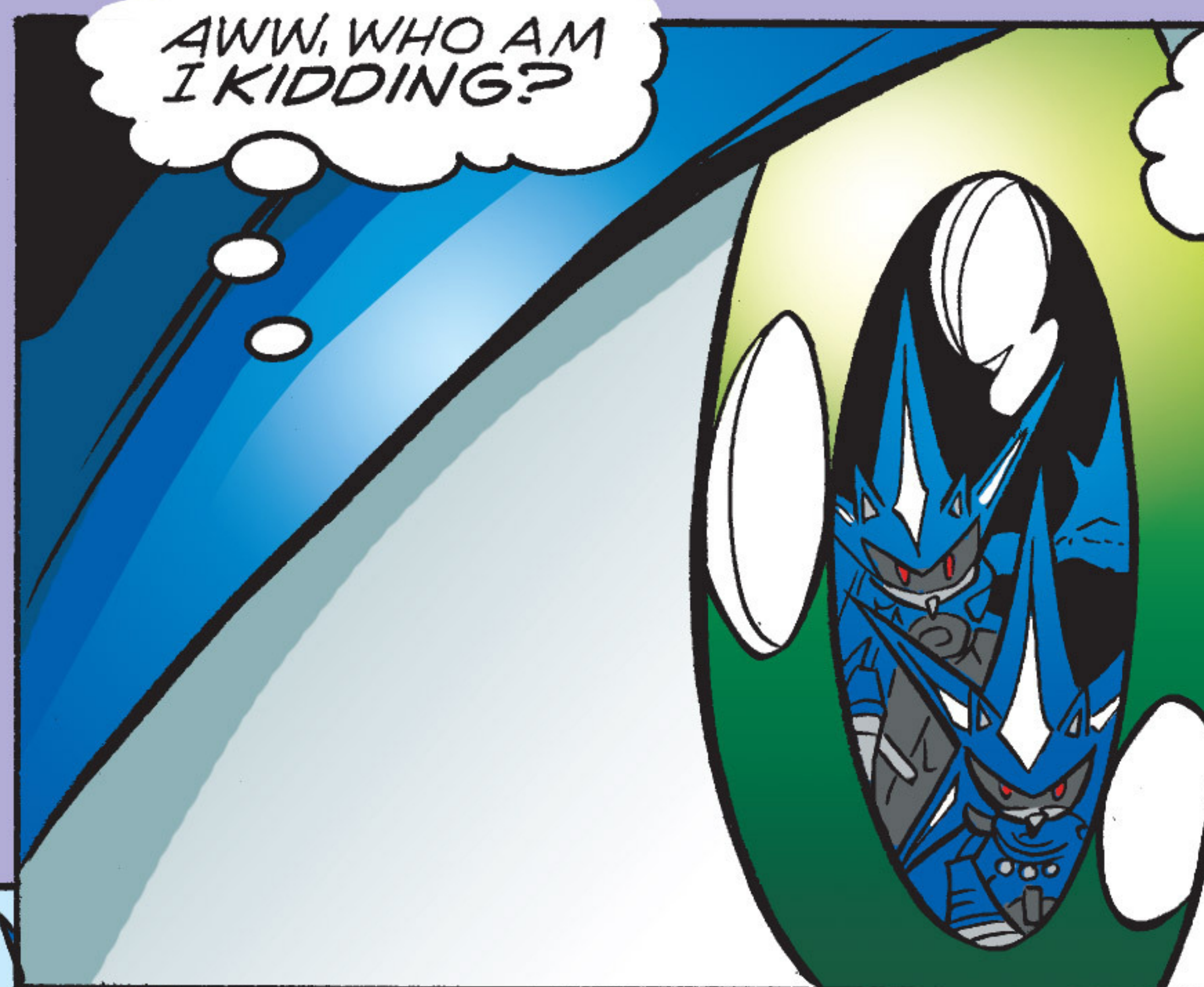
WE'LL DEAL
WITH THAT
LATER!

WE HAVE
MORE
URGENT
MATTERS TO
ATTEND!

BY "WE,"
YOU MEAN
"ME"...!
I'M ON
IT!



THIS HERO-JAZZ CAN BE A PAIN AT TIMES! JUST ONCE, I'D LIKE TO SEE SOMEONE ELSE LEAD THE CHARGE!



AWW, WHO AM I KIDDING?

WHO ELSE COULD SMACK DOWN REPLICAS OF THE REAL DEAL--

--OTHER THAN THE REAL DEAL?



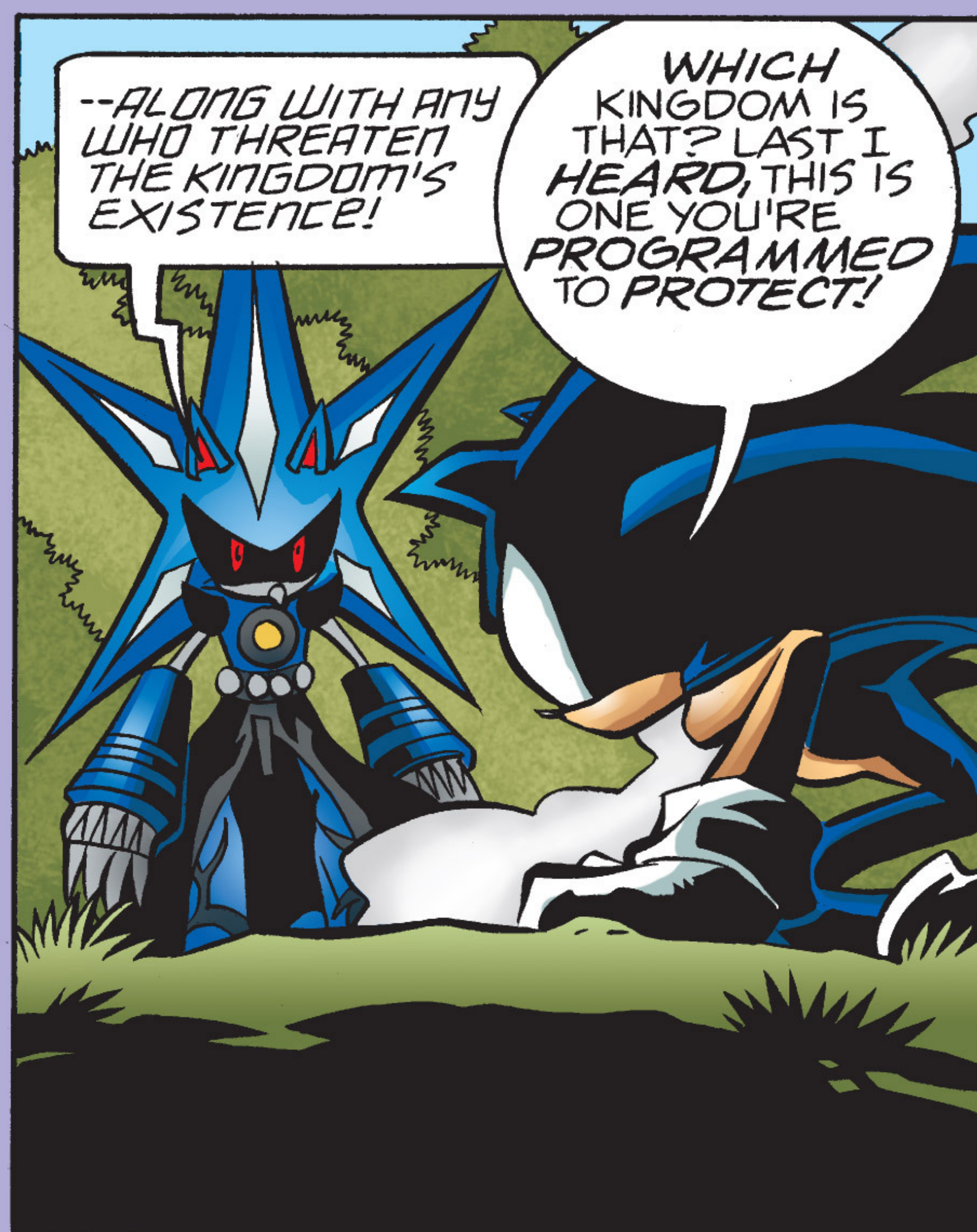
ONE BLUE BLUR COMING THROUGH!!! YOU SIMULATED-SONICS ARE GOING DOWN!

KLANG!
KLANG!



CORRECTION: IT IS YOU WHO FACES ELIMINATION--

ZZAP!



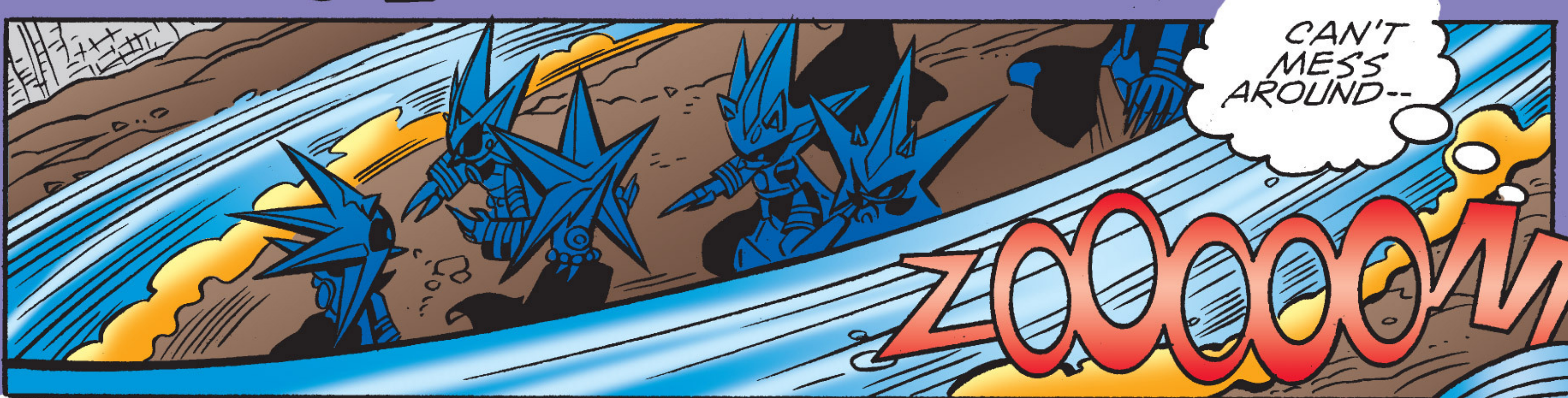
--ALONG WITH ANY WHO THREATEN THE KINGDOM'S EXISTENCE!

WHICH KINGDOM IS THAT? LAST I HEARD, THIS IS ONE YOU'RE PROGRAMMED TO PROTECT!



IMPOSSIBLE! OUR
PROGRAMMING IS
IMPERVIOUS TO
TAMPERING!

SAYS
YOU--



CAN'T
MESS
AROUND--

ZOOOOOON

--AS THERE'RE
WAY TOO MANY
OF THEM TO GO
ONE-ON-ONE
WITH!

NO TELLING
IF THIS'LL
WORK--

--MAYBE
SOMETHING
NEW WILL
THROW
THEM
OFF!

WELL,
WHADDAYA
KNOW?



--IF THIS
SCRAMBLES
THEIR
CIRCUITS
ENOUGH--

--ALONG
WITH
THE
FALL--



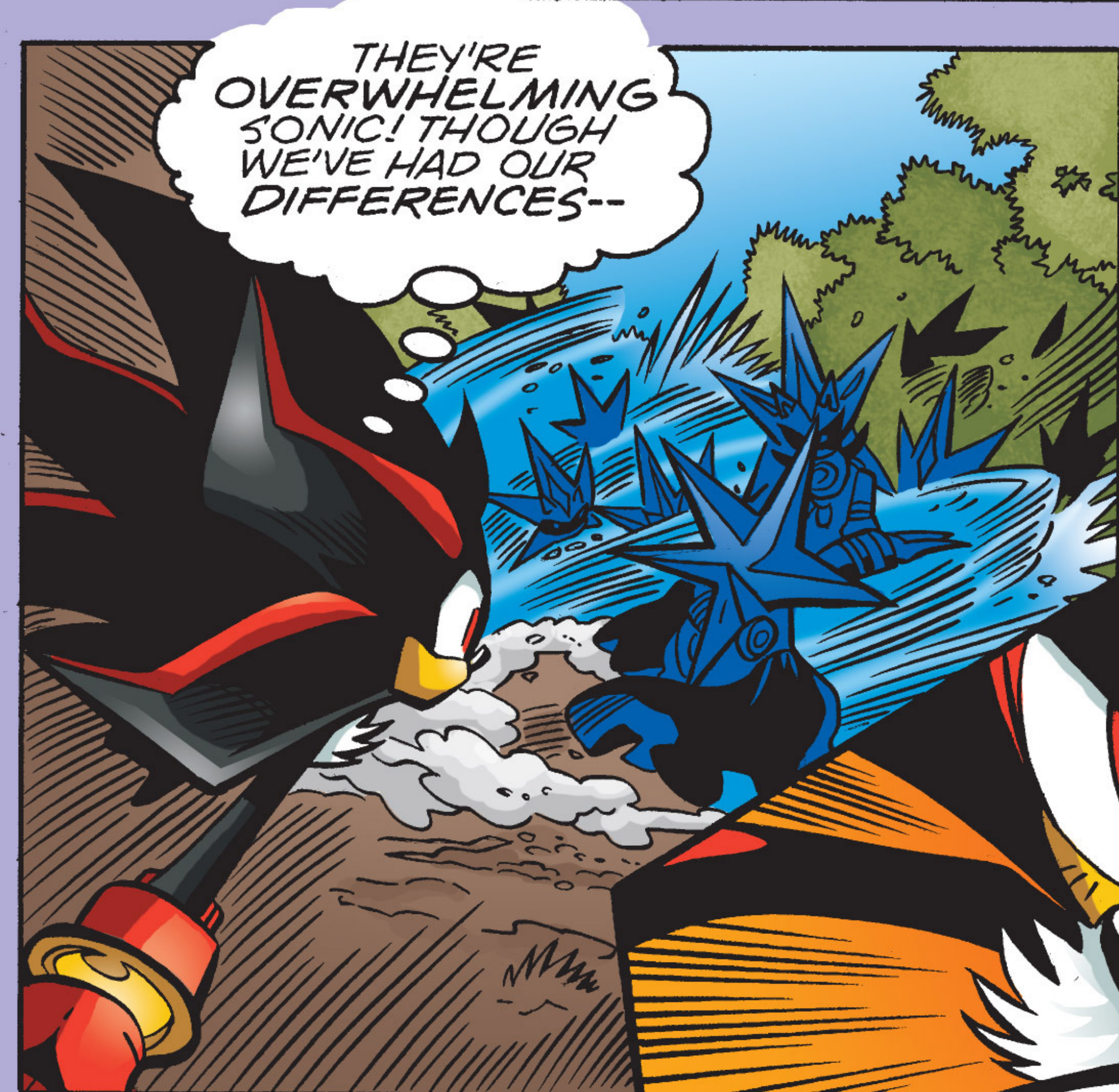
UGH!

WHAM



WE WERE
MODELLED
TO SERVE IN
YOUR STEAD
--AND YET
YOU ATTACK
US!

YEAH--GASP--
MUST BE THOSE
MISPLACED
PRIORITIES OF
YOURS!



THEY'RE
OVERWHELMING
SONIC! THOUGH
WE'VE HAD OUR
DIFFERENCES--



--I CANNOT
ALLOW HIM
TO FALL
THIS WAY!



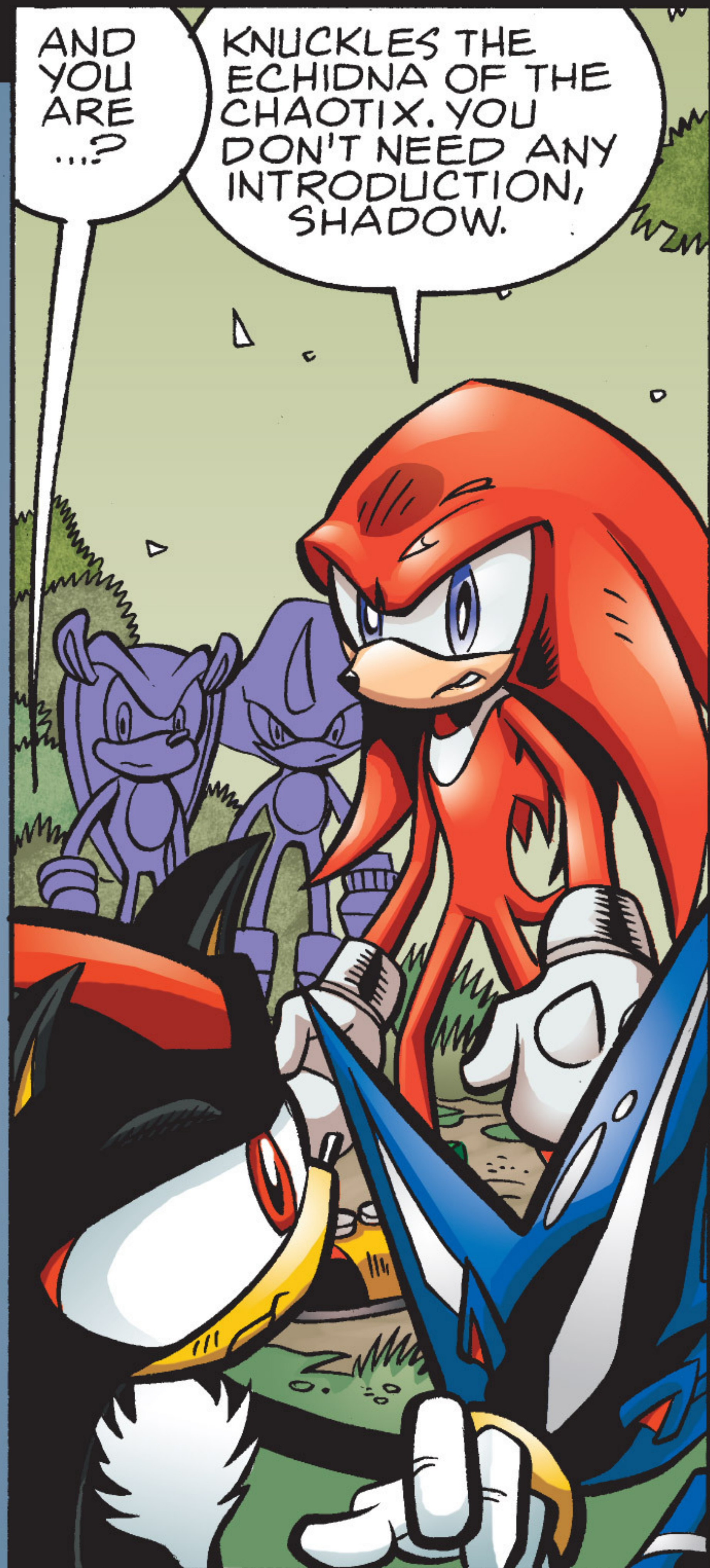
I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

ALL I DID WAS RAISE MY HAND--

--AND NOW ALL ARE DEMOBILIZED!

HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE?

CHAOS CONTROL?



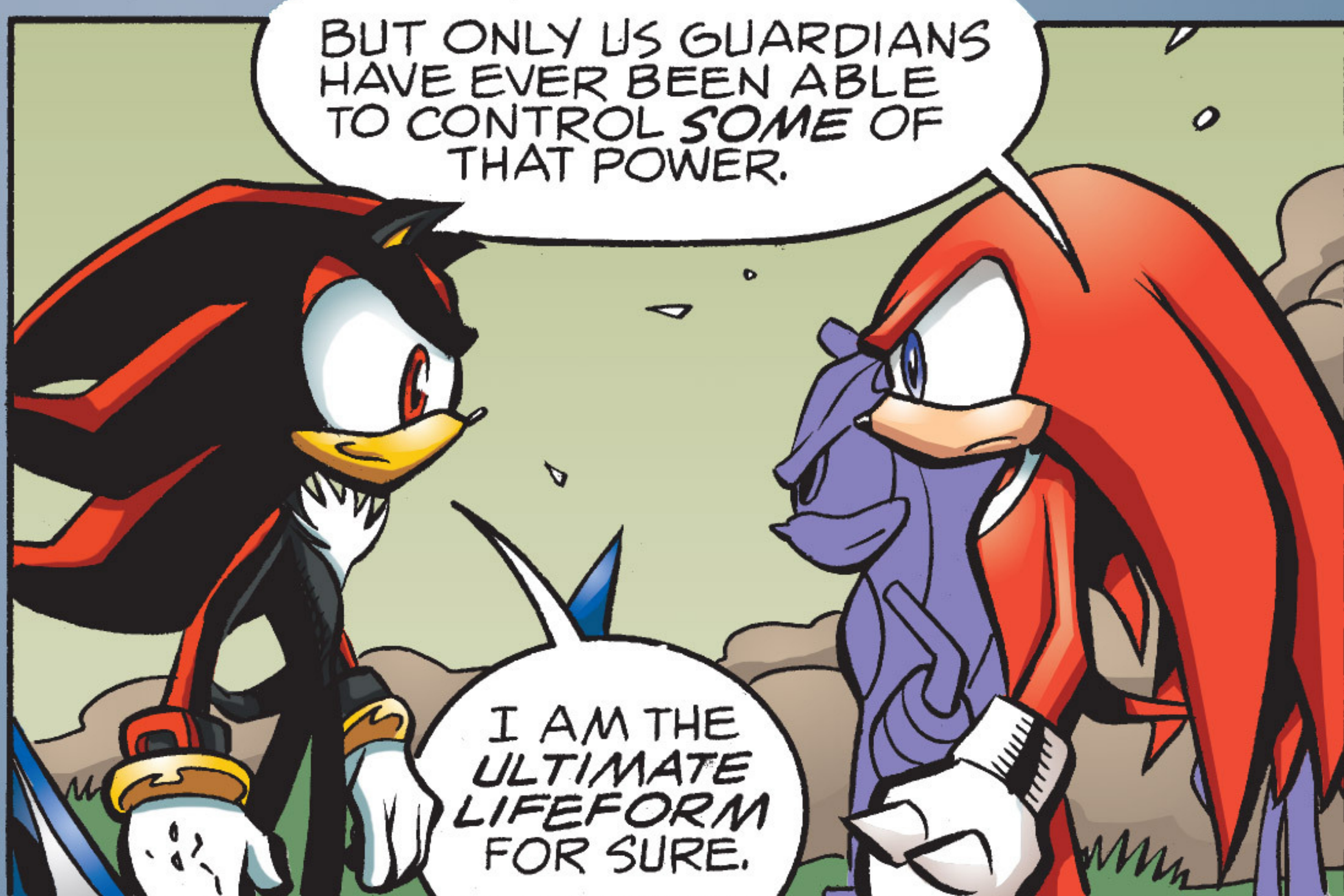
AND YOU ARE ...?

KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA OF THE CHAOTIX. YOU DON'T NEED ANY INTRODUCTION, SHADOW.



YOU KNOW NOTHING OF CHAOS CONTROL, KNUCKLES. I REQUIRE A CHAOS EMERALD TO PERFORM THAT TECHNIQUE.

NOT IF YOU DREW THE POWER FROM THE CHAOS FORCE.



BUT ONLY US GUARDIANS HAVE EVER BEEN ABLE TO CONTROL SOME OF THAT POWER.

I AM THE ULTIMATE LIFEFORM FOR SURE.



CAN WE TURN DOWN THE VOLUME? OOH, MY HEAD...



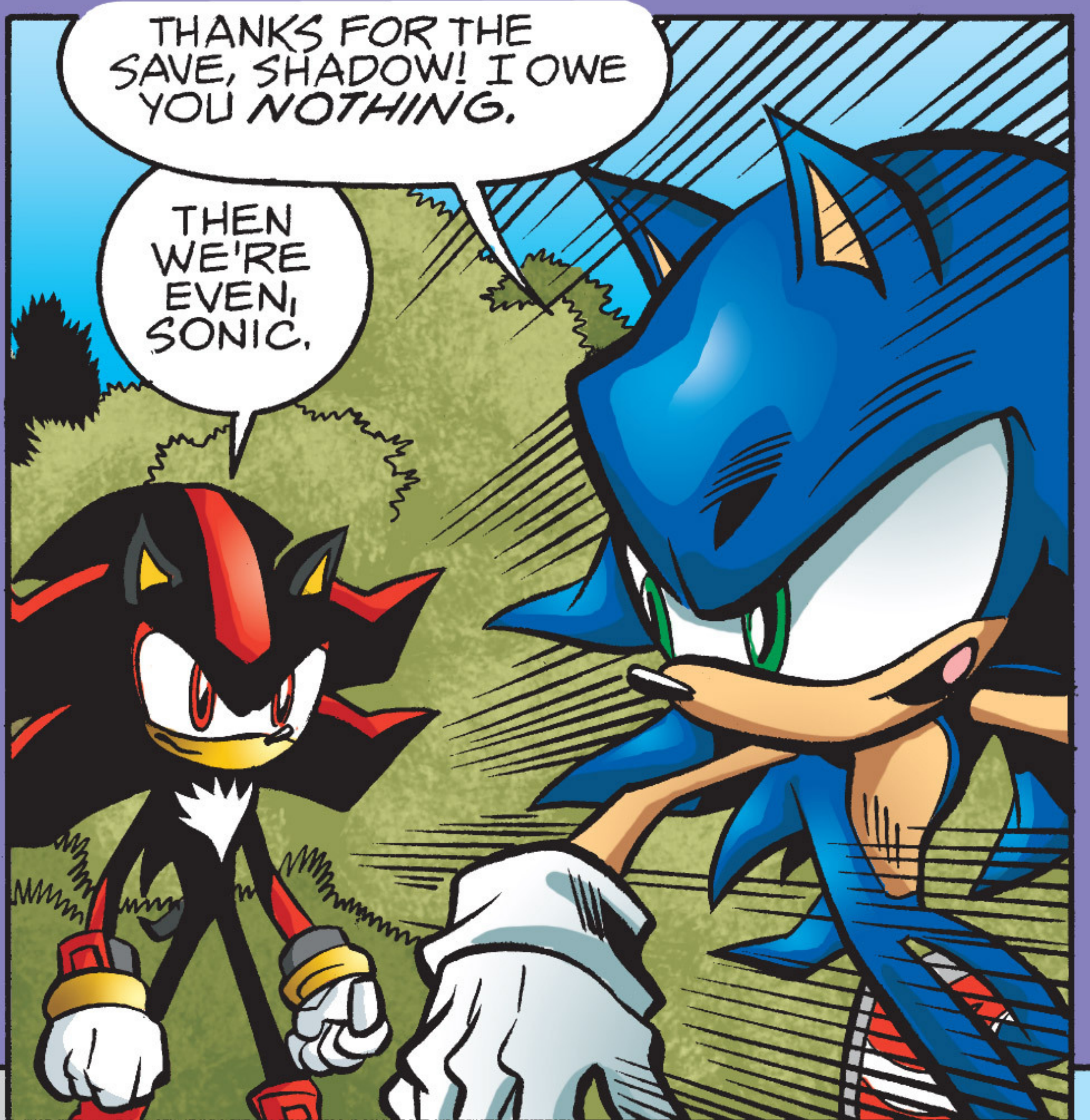
FINISHED RESTING, BLUE HEDGEHOG?

SHUT UP, FAKER.



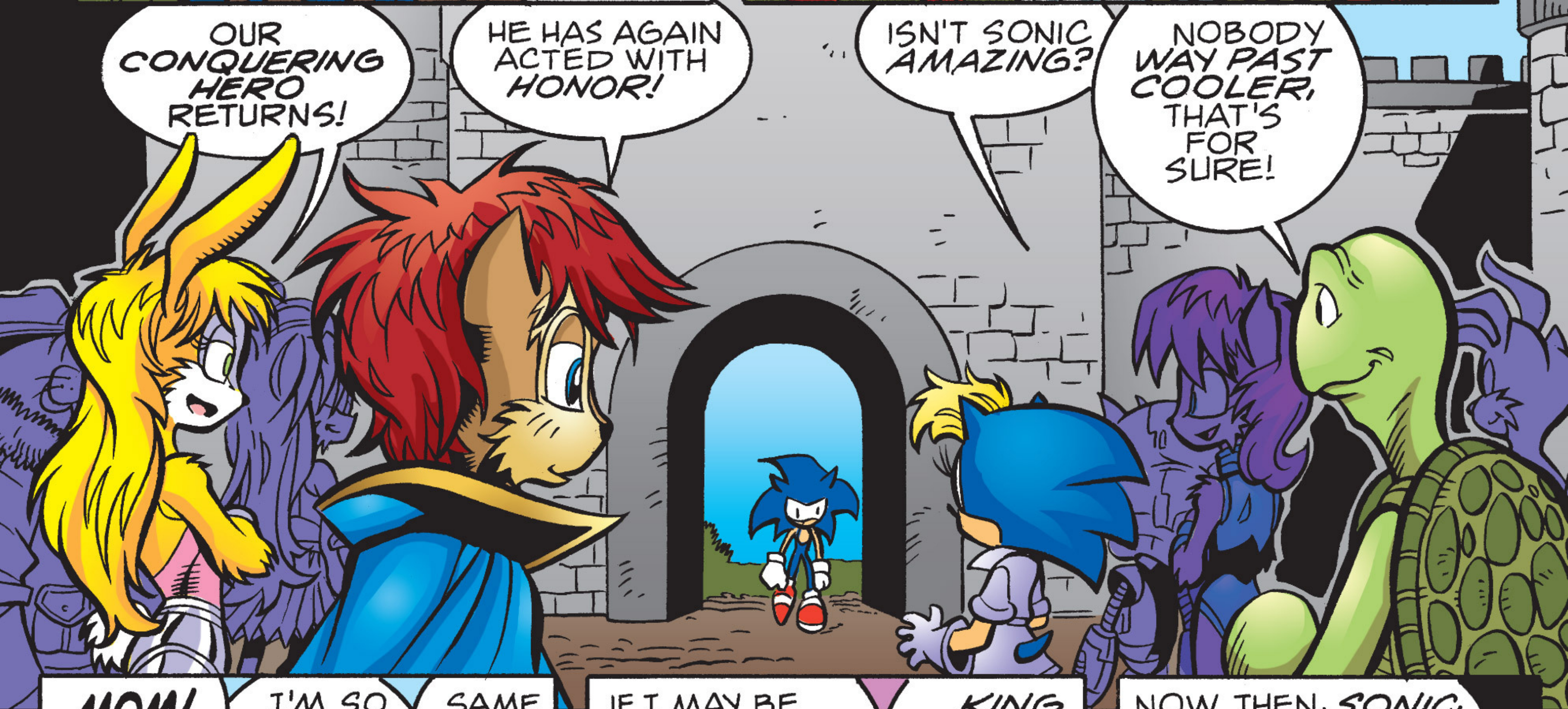
YOU TWO KEEP GOSSIPING. WE'RE OFF TO SAVE THE DAY!

I'M READY, ALREADY!



THANKS FOR THE SAVE, SHADOW! I OWE YOU NOTHING.

THEN WE'RE EVEN, SONIC.



OUR CONQUERING HERO RETURNS!

HE HAS AGAIN ACTED WITH HONOR!

ISN'T SONIC AMAZING?

NOBODY WAY PAST COOLER, THAT'S FOR SURE!



MOM! DAD!

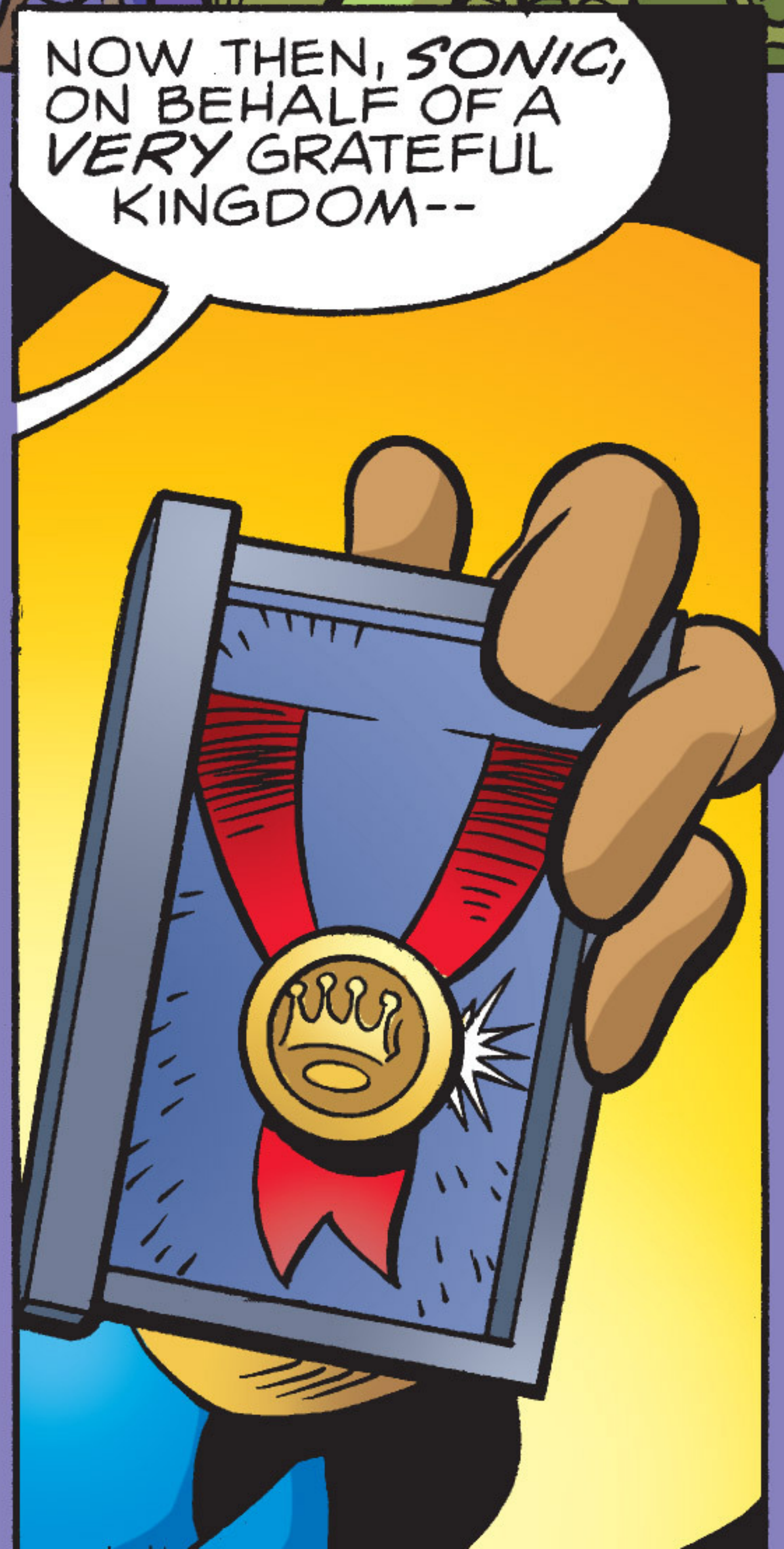
I'M SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU AGAIN, HONEY!

SAME HERE, SON!

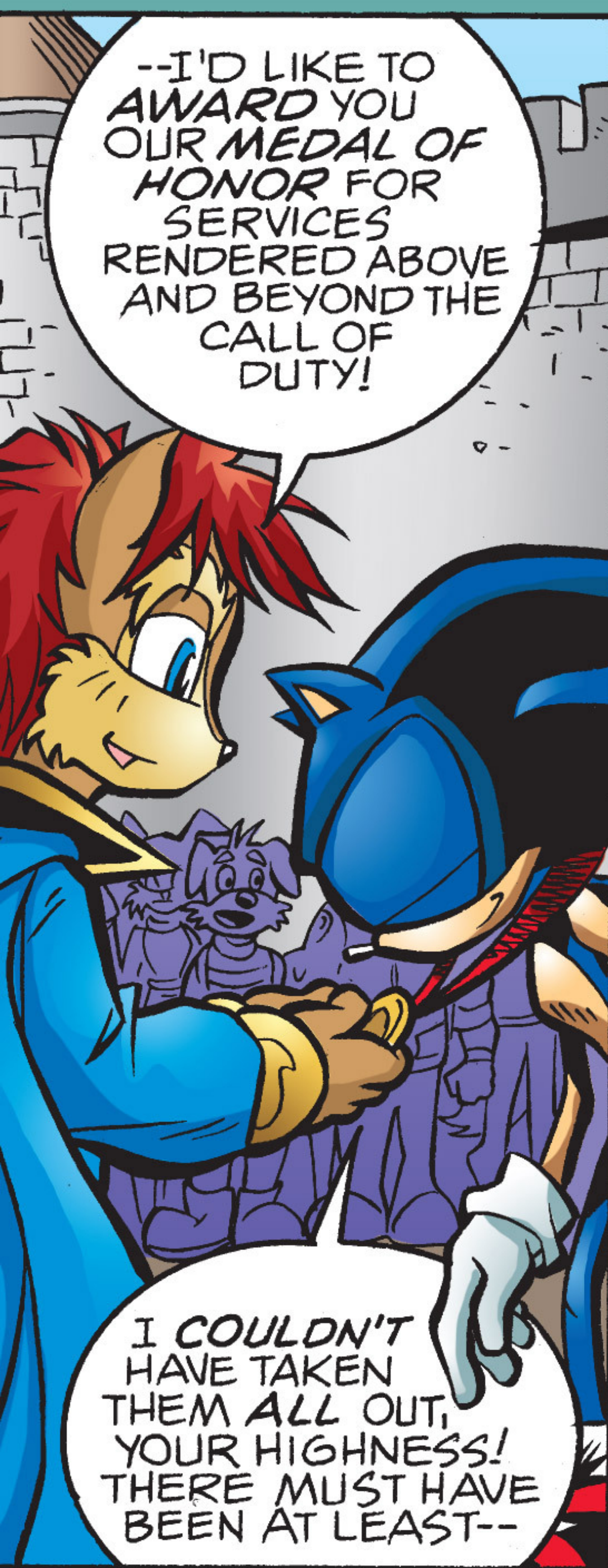


IF I MAY BE PERMITTED TO INTERRUPT, I HAVE A FEW WORDS TO SAY ON BEHALF OF THE KINGDOM!

KING ELIAS! BUT OF COURSE, SIRE!

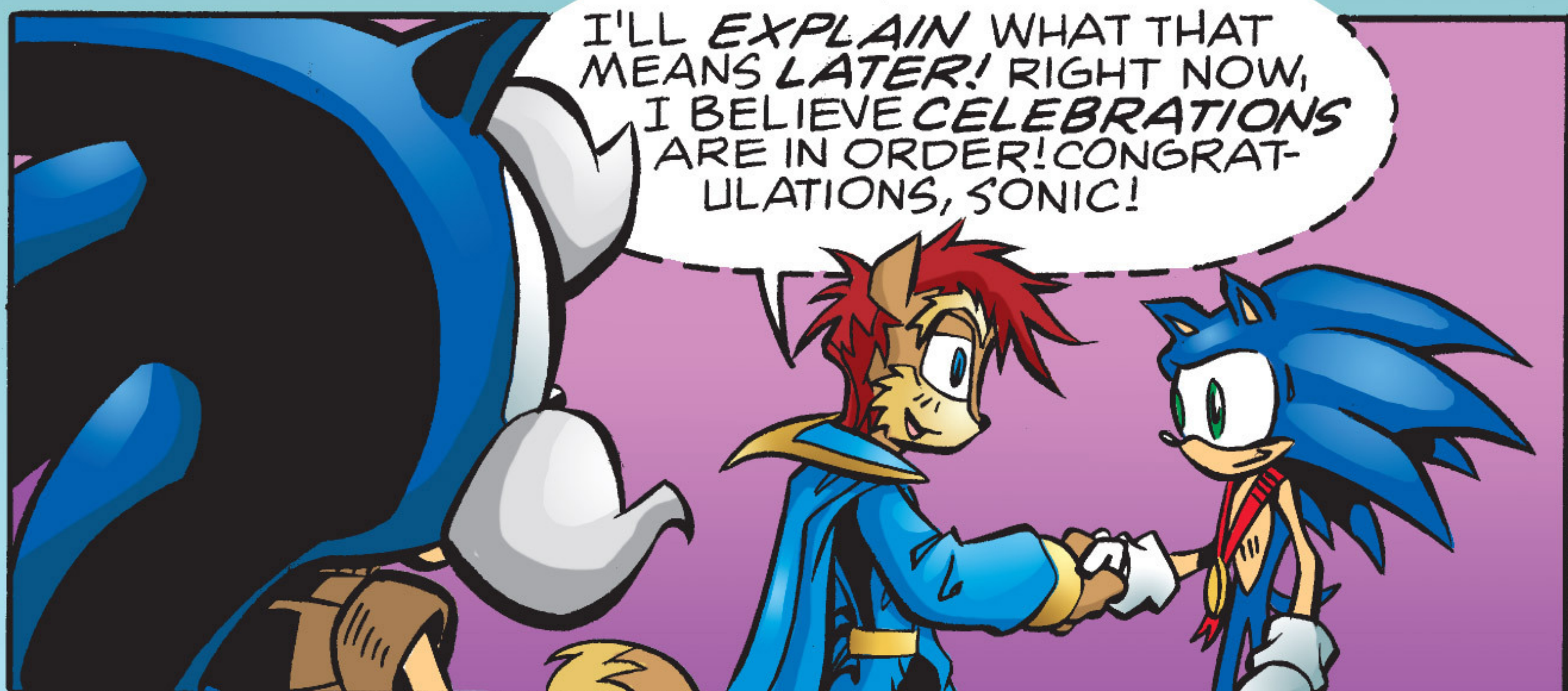
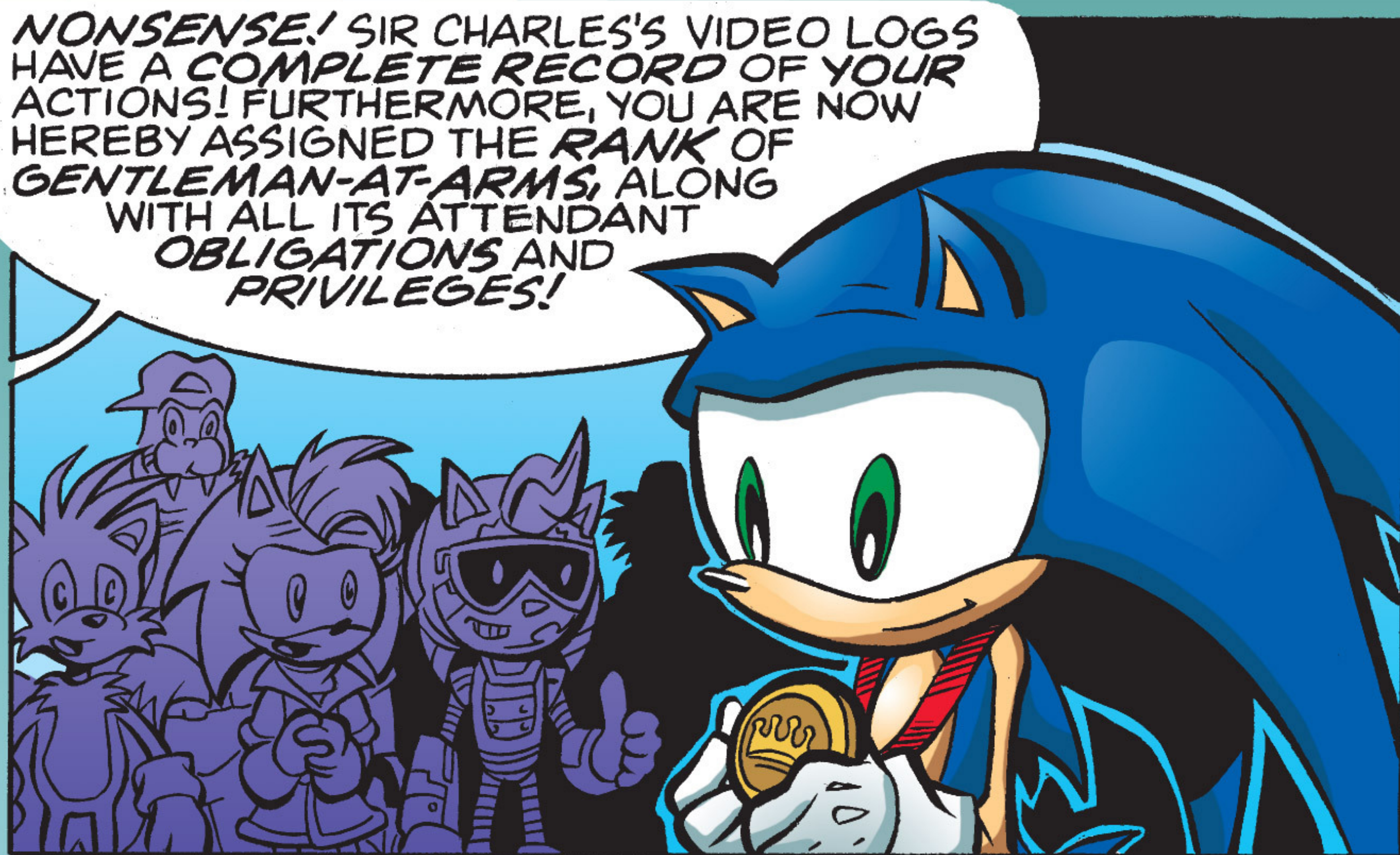


NOW THEN, SONIC, ON BEHALF OF A VERY GRATEFUL KINGDOM--

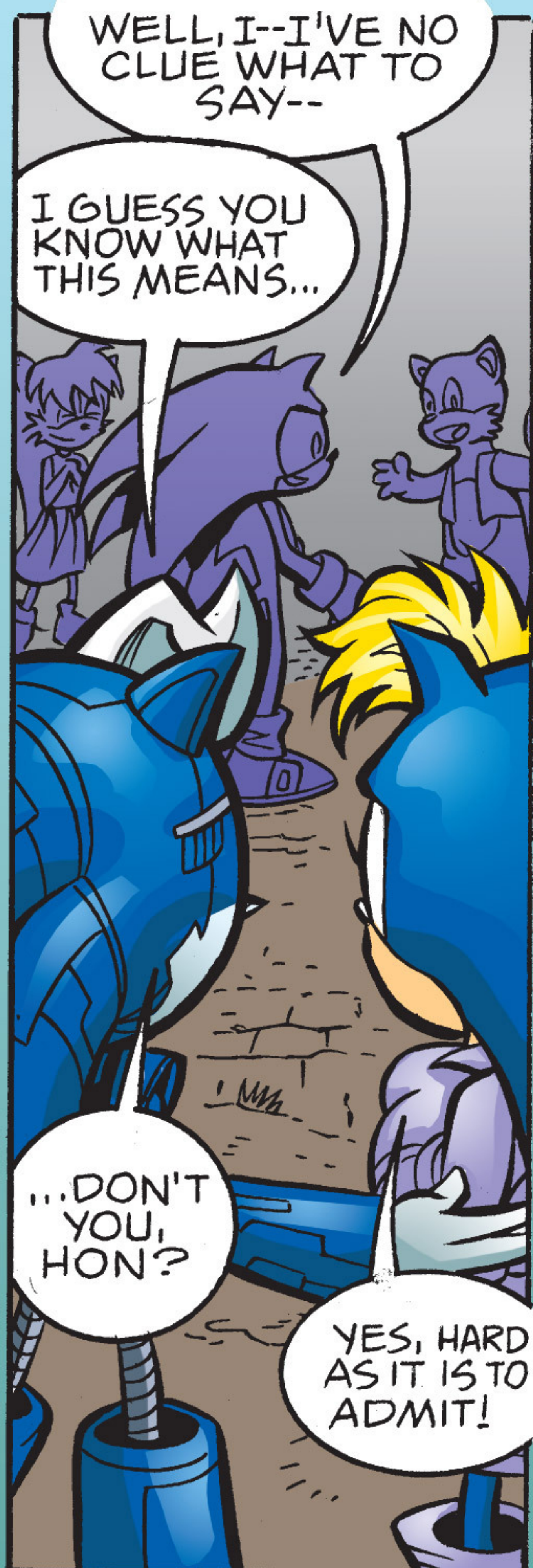


--I'D LIKE TO AWARD YOU OUR MEDAL OF HONOR FOR SERVICES RENDERED ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY!

I COULDN'T HAVE TAKEN THEM ALL OUT, YOUR HIGHNESS! THERE MUST HAVE BEEN AT LEAST--



I'LL EXPLAIN WHAT THAT MEANS LATER! RIGHT NOW, I BELIEVE CELEBRATIONS ARE IN ORDER! CONGRATULATIONS, SONIC!

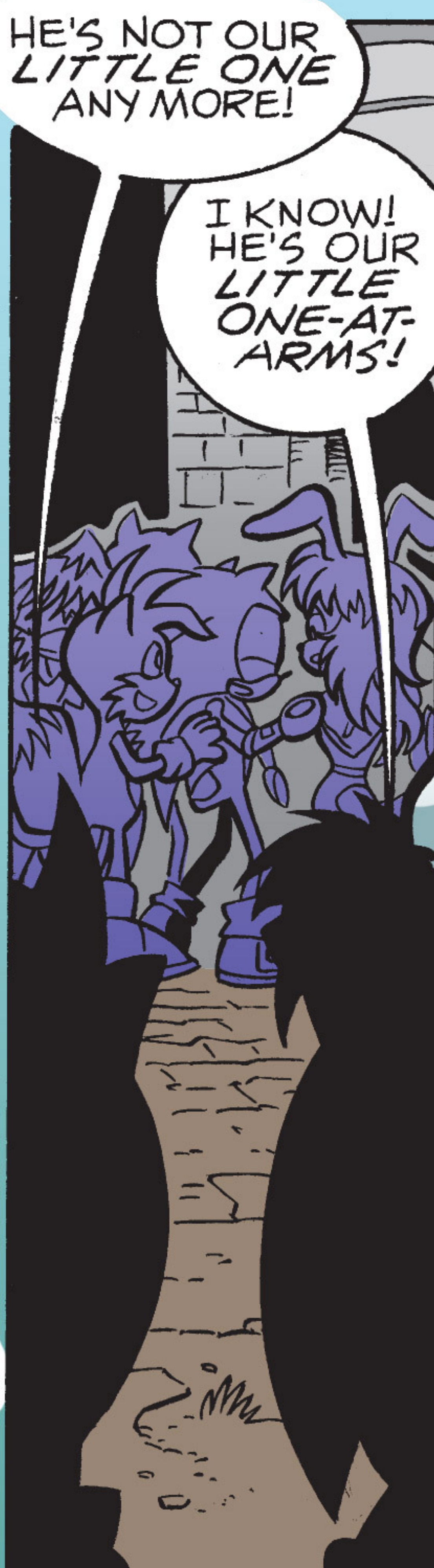


WELL, I--I'VE NO CLUE WHAT TO SAY--

I GUESS YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS...

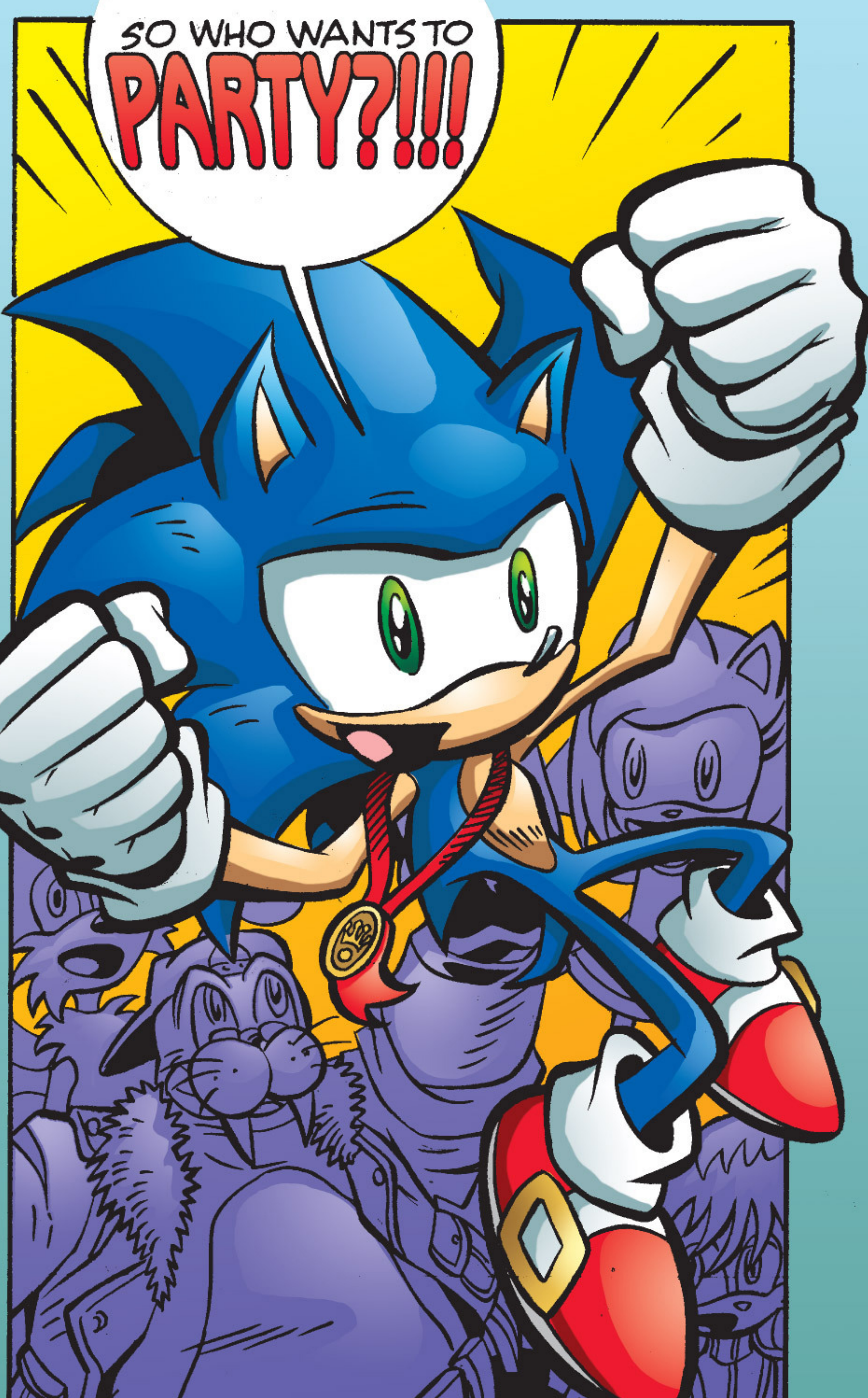
...DON'T YOU, HON?

YES, HARD AS IT IS TO ADMIT!



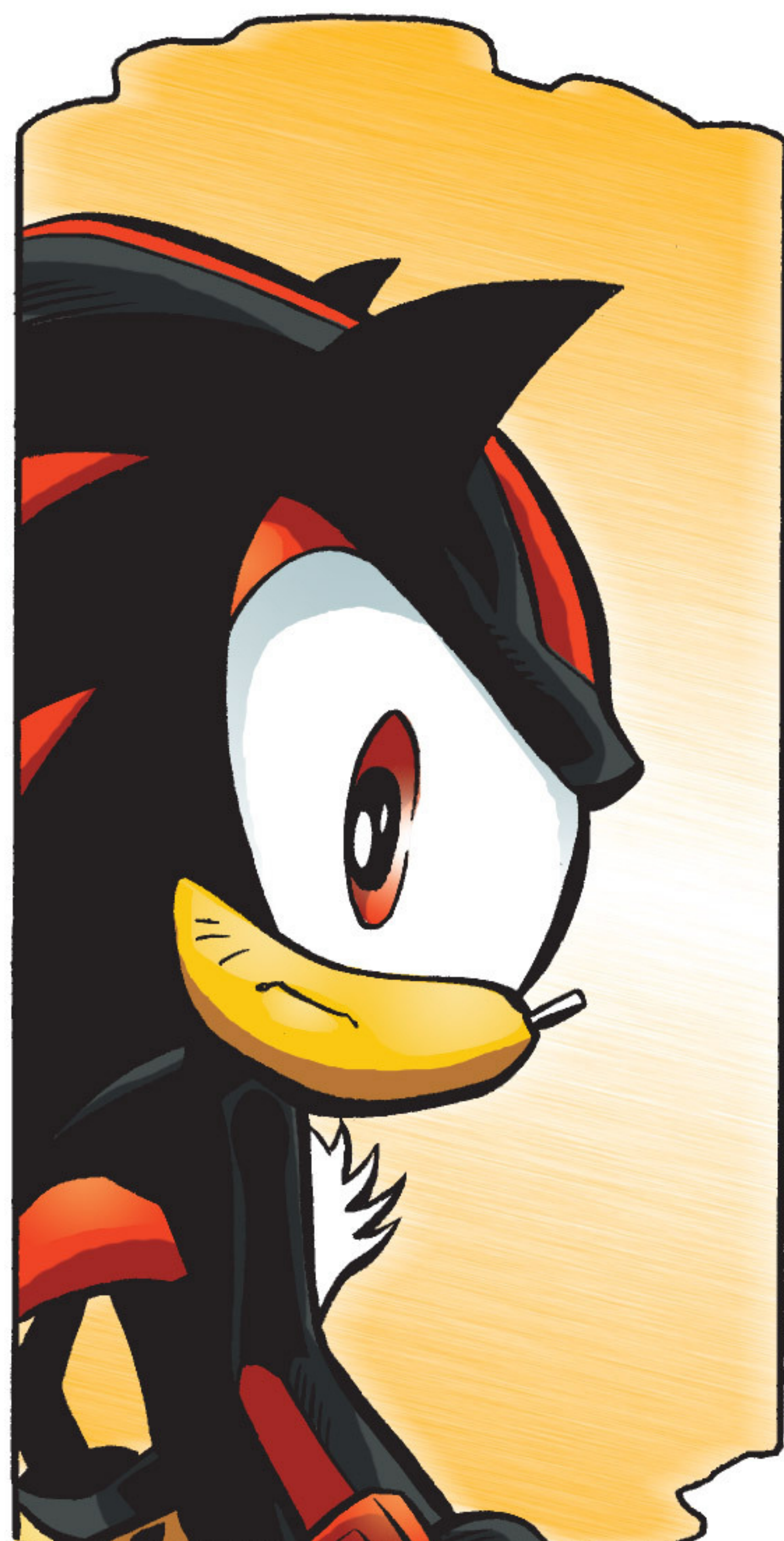
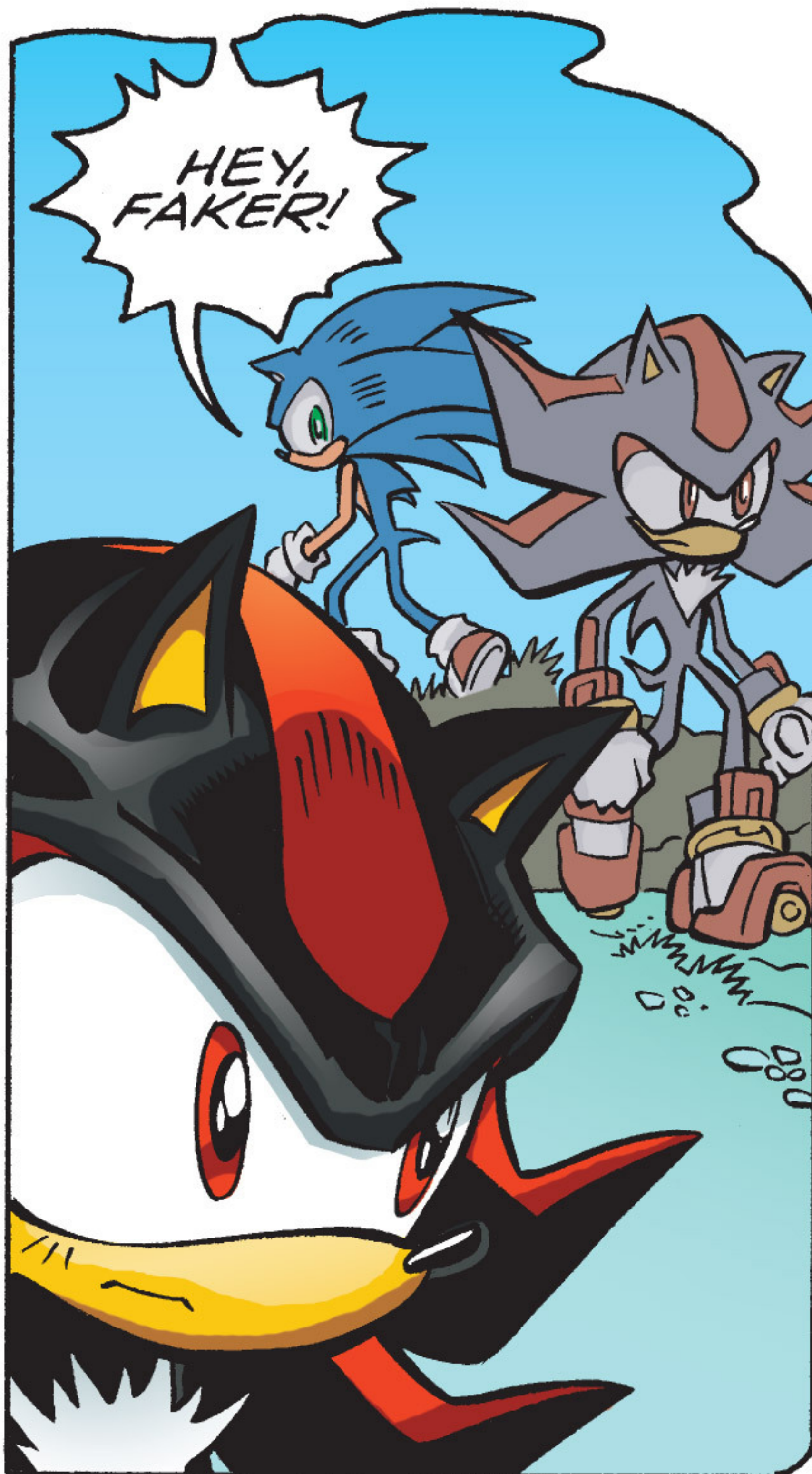
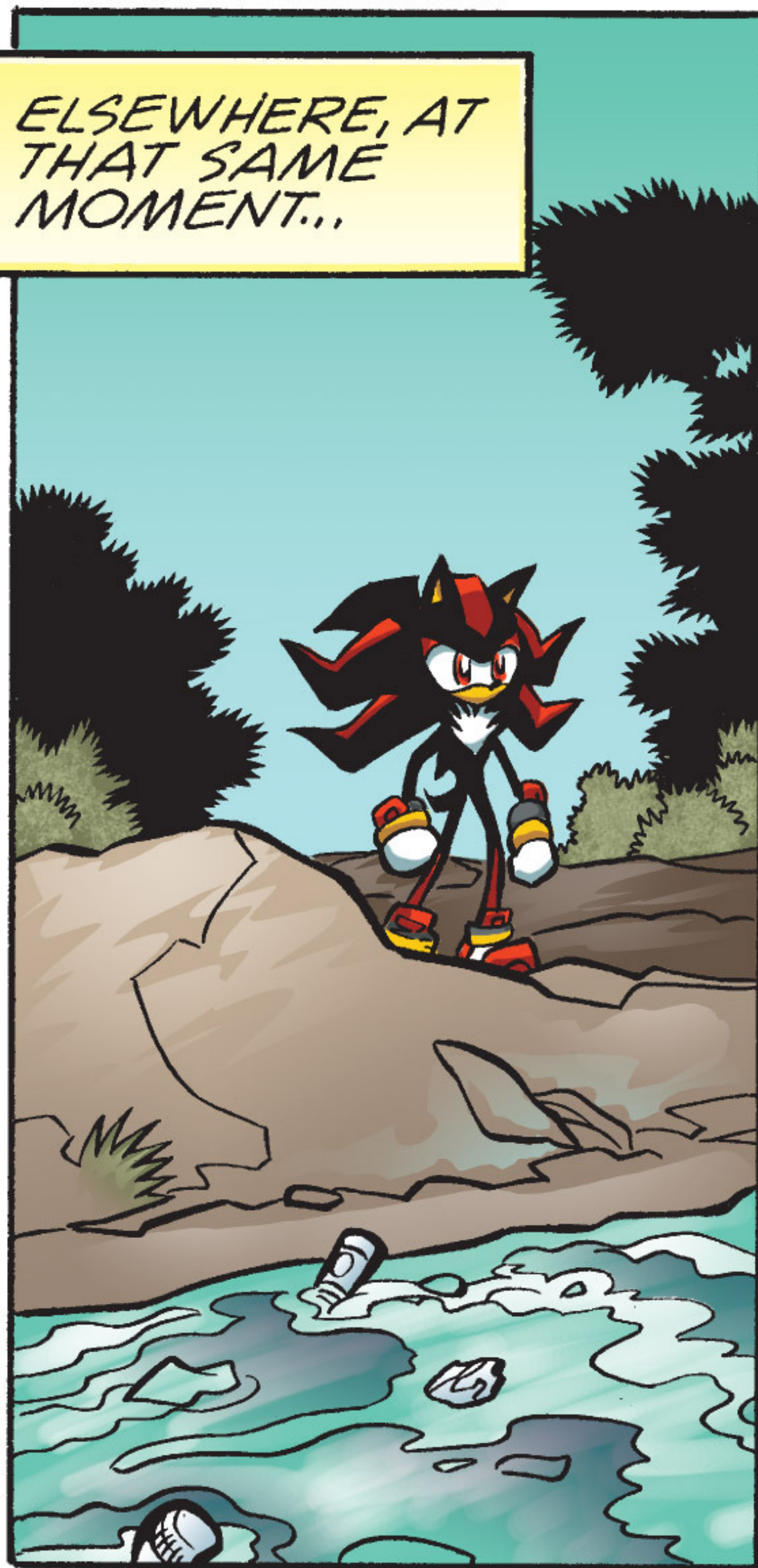
HE'S NOT OUR LITTLE ONE ANY MORE!

I KNOW! HE'S OUR LITTLE ONE-AT-ARMS!

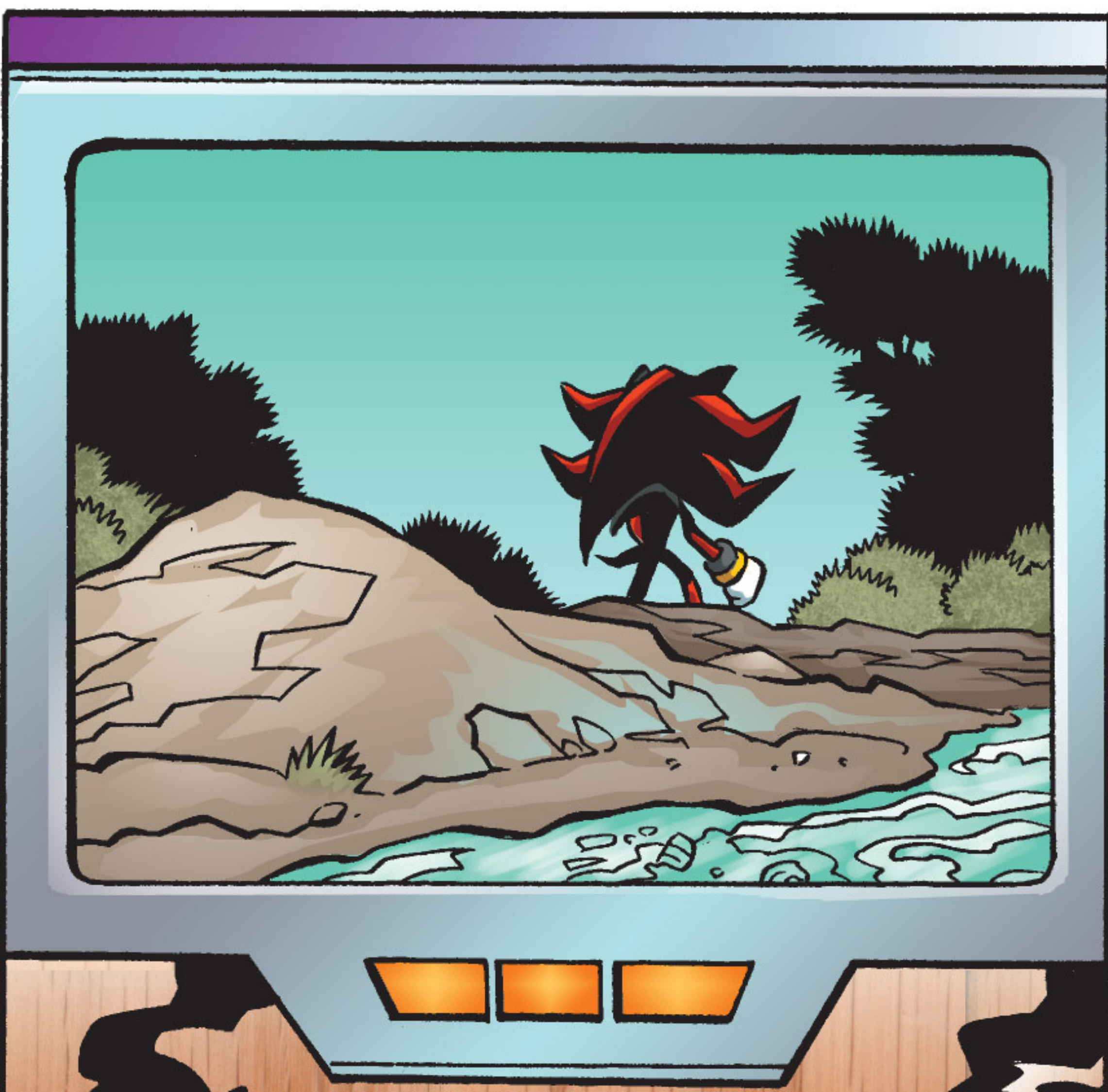
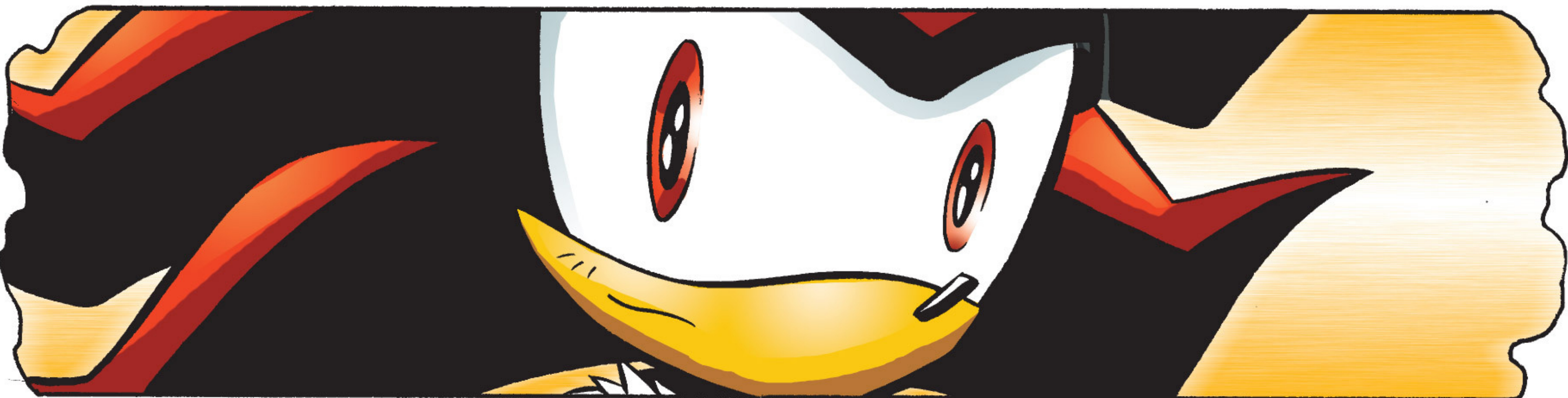
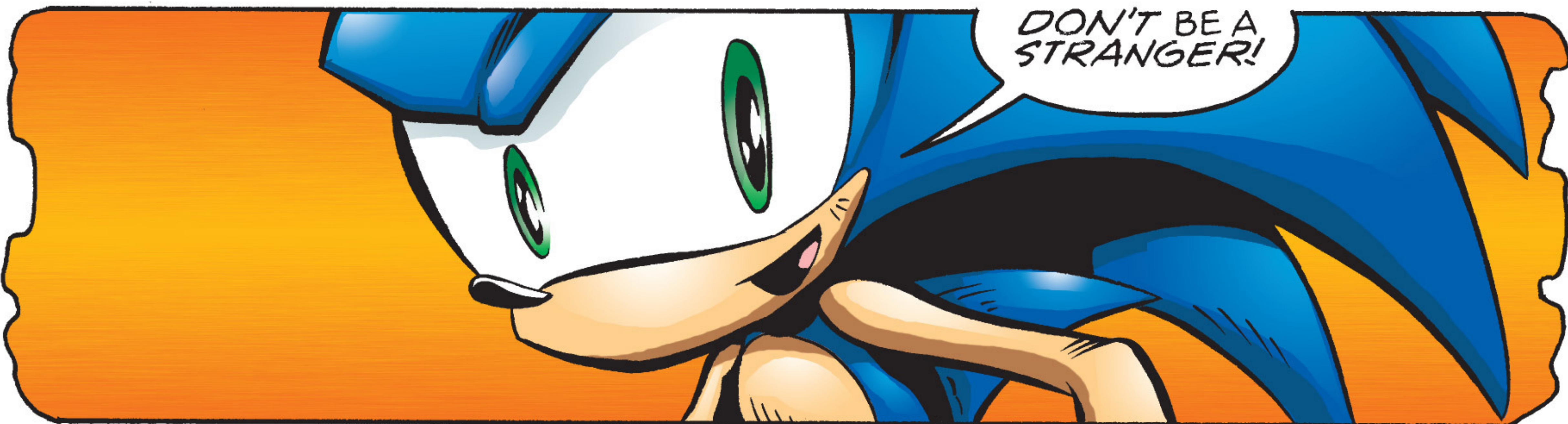


SO WHO WANTS TO PARTY?!!!!

ELSEWHERE, AT
THAT SAME
MOMENT...

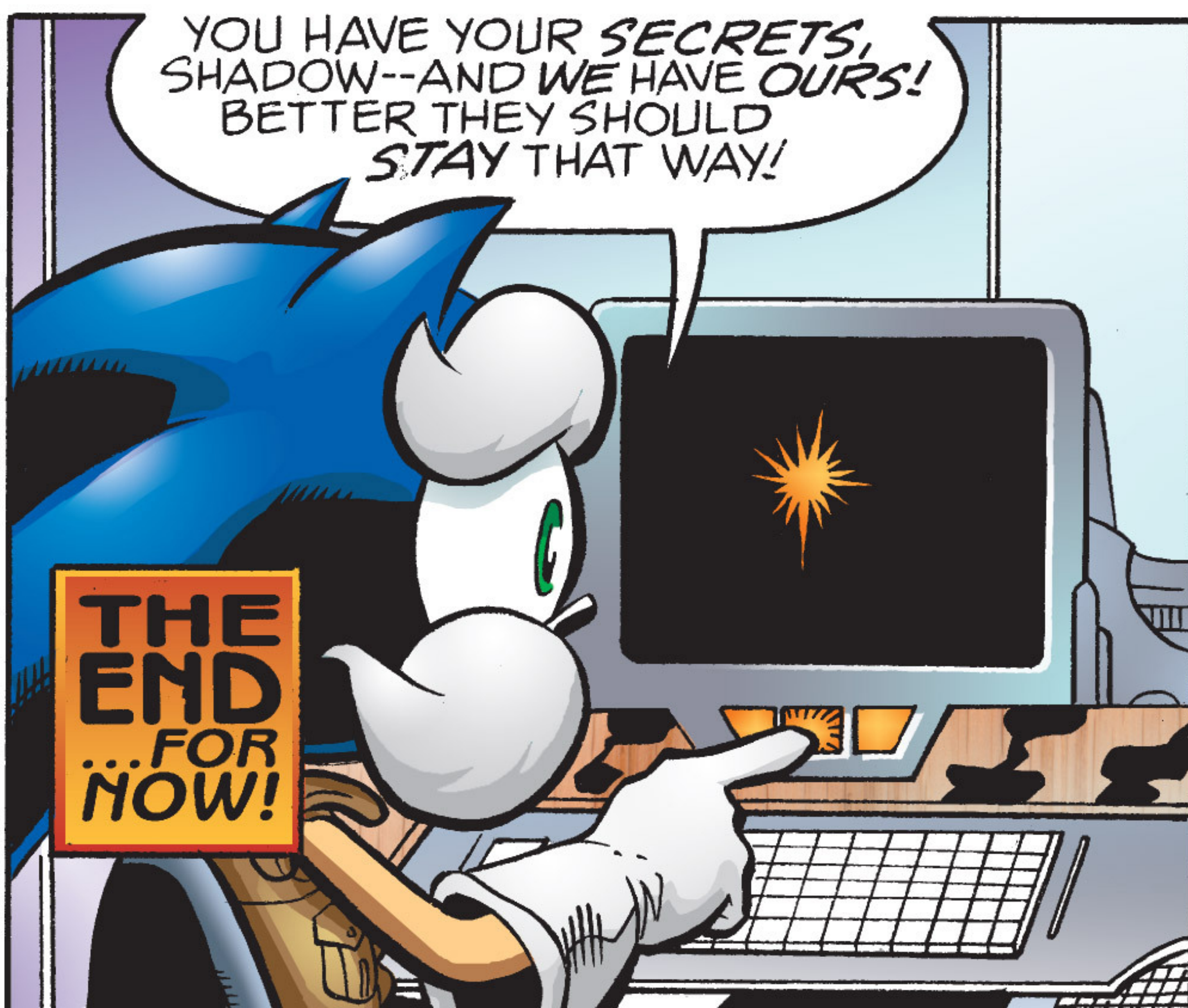


DON'T BE A
STRANGER!



YOU HAVE YOUR *SECRETS*,
SHADOW--AND WE HAVE *OURS*!
BETTER THEY SHOULD
STAY THAT WAY!

THE
END
FOR
NOW!



GOOD MORNING, FATHER.

BAH!
WHAT'S SO
GOOD ABOUT
IT?

COME TO
THINK OF IT, I CAN'T
RECALL A GOOD
MORNING WITHIN
RECENT MEMORY!

YOUR RESEARCH
CONTINUES AND YOUR
LIEUTENANTS CONTINUE
MAINTAINING YOUR
INFRASTRUCTURE.

MY
LIEUTENANTS?!!

SNIVELING WORMS
LOOKING TO STAB ME
IN THE BACK AT THE
FIRST CHANCE --

-- JUST LIKE THAT
TREACHEROUS
WEASEL,
SNIVELY!!!

CAN YOU
IMAGINE?
BETRAYING ME
TO MY *WORST*
ENEMY IN ALL
THE WORLD?!

THE DESPICABLE DR. ROBOTNIK INSIDIOUS

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY
KEN PENDERS
COLORED BY JOSH AND AIMEE RAY

WOULDN'T YOU AGREE
THAT AN EXAMPLE SHOULD
BE MADE TO ENSURE THE
CONTINUING LOYALTY OF
THOSE STILL SERVING YOU?

BEYOND QUESTION -- -- AND PAINFULLY SO!



BUT THE ONE I DESIRE ABOVE ALL TO SEE THE *UTMOST EXCRUTIATING PUNISHMENT* INFLICTED UPON IS CURRENTLY BEYOND MY REACH!

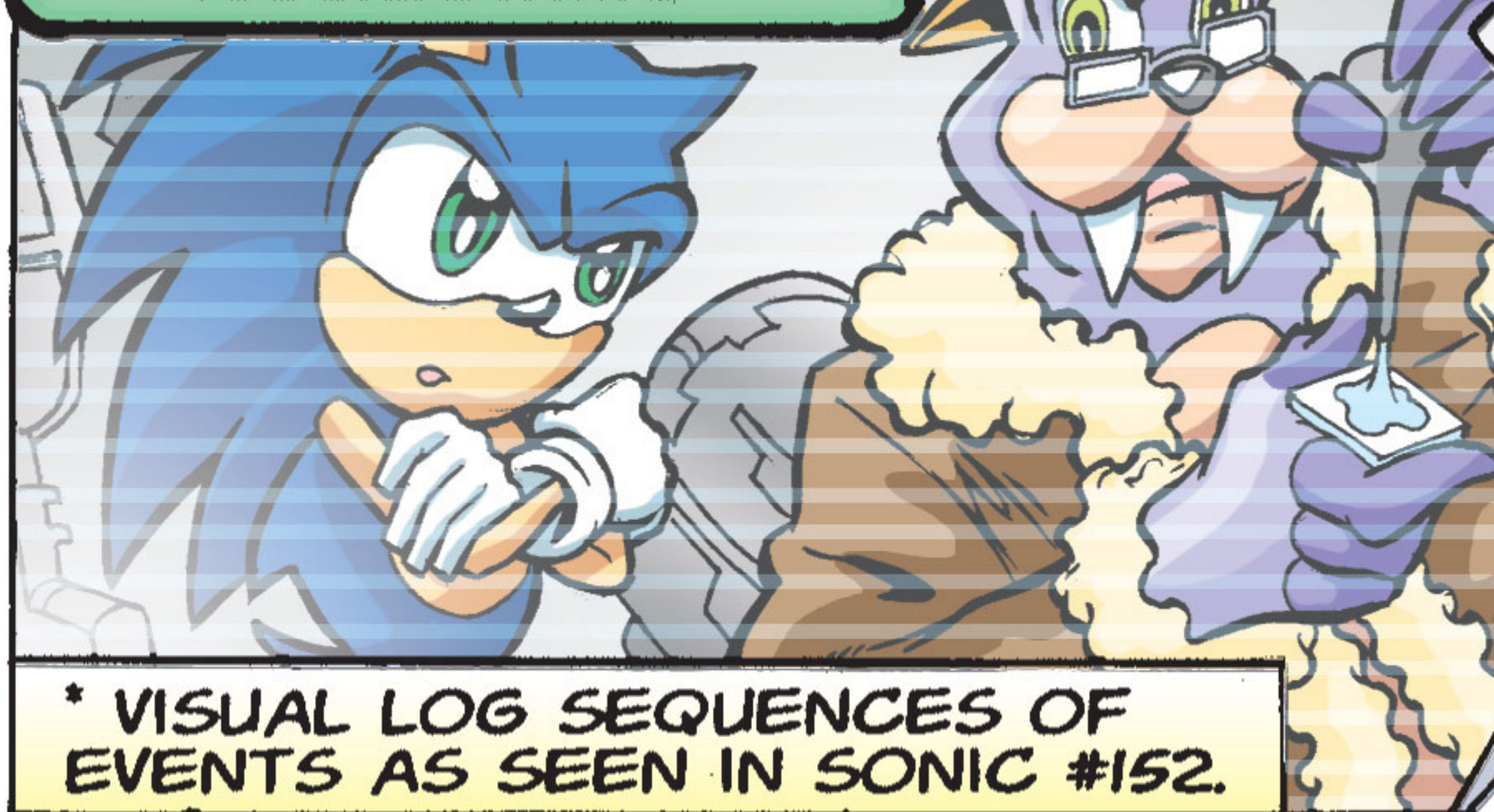
THE EVIDENCE SUGGESTS OTHERWISE, FATHER.

PERHAPS THIS VISUAL LOG OF EXPERIMENT X-51 WILL REFRESH YOUR MEMORY.



AHH, YES! I DIDN'T REALIZE RECREATING METAL SONIC COULD GET SO OUT OF HAND!

AS YOU CAN SEE, A SAMPLE OF NANITES WAS DRAWN FOR EXAMINATION. *



* VISUAL LOG SEQUENCES OF EVENTS AS SEEN IN SONIC #152.

TURNABOUT CAN ALSO BE FAIR PLAY, EVEN WHEN UNINTENTIONAL.

THIS VIDEO STREAM WAS RECEIVED WHEN THE NANITES WERE TRANSMITTING TO THEIR OWN KIND ELSEWHERE.



YOU MEAN THEY *COMMUNICATE* AMONGST EACH OTHER DESPITE WHATEVER *DISTANCE* OF SEPARATION?

EGADS! THOSE FOOLS CAN NOW ACCESS MY TECHNOLOGY!

IT'S HARD ENOUGH STAYING AHEAD WITHOUT HANDING OVER *PROPRIETARY* INFORMATION ON A *PLATTER*!

AFFIRMATIVE.

NOT EVEN A RADICAL CHANGE OF ENVIRONMENT COULD DISRUPT THE SIGNAL.



FREEZE FRAME THE *AERIAL* ACROBATICS!

SINCE WHEN COULD NANITES *DEFY* GRAVITY?

JET ENGINES ARE BUT ONE OUT OF AN INFINITE NUMBER OF CONFIGURATIONS THE NANITES ARE CAPABLE OF.

AFFIRMATIVE.

NOW SWITCHING TO REAL-TIME TRANSMISSION.

SO THE *SAMPLE* ROTOR *EXTRACTED* IS NOW LINKED TO THE TURTLE *SYMBIOTICALLY*?

A CORRIDOR!!

WHY ON MOBIUS WOULD I BE INTERESTED IN THAT?!!

IT'S WHERE THE CORRIDOR LEADS TO THAT MAY INTEREST YOU.

JUST PRESS YOUR PALM DOWN ON THE *SCANNER* HERE WHILE LOOKING STRAIGHT AHEAD INTO THE CAMERA IN FRONT OF YOU, TOMMY!

AUDIO ON.

SIR CHARLES AND HIS BROTHER JULES!

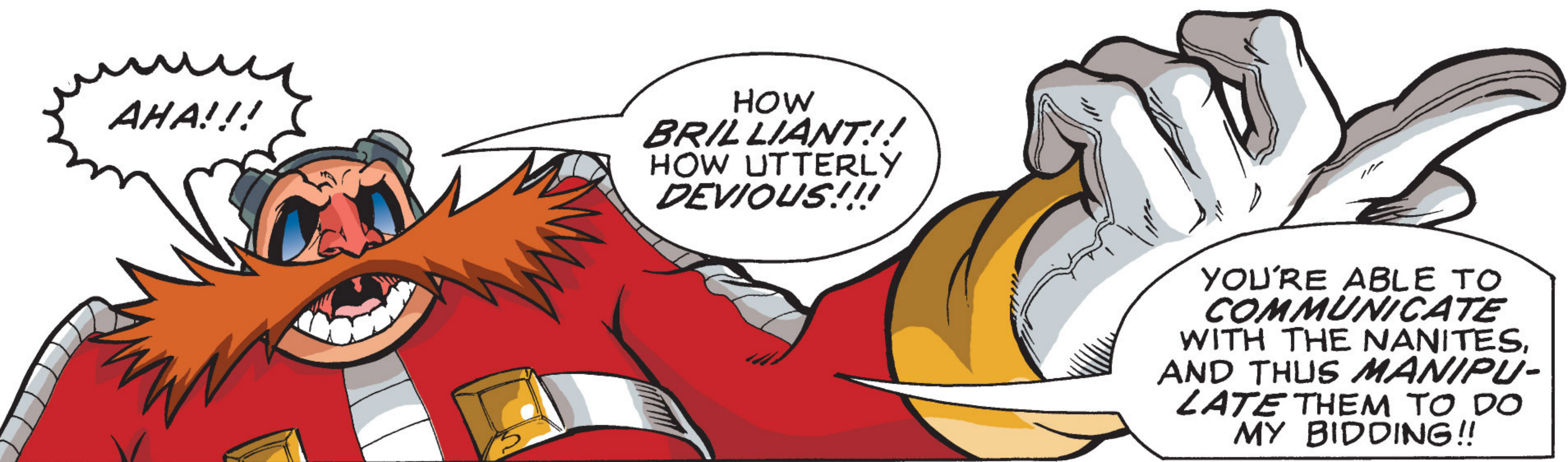
WHAT COULD THEY BE UP TO? CAN WE GET *SOUND*?

"WHAT JUST HAPPENED, A.D.A.M.? I DON'T UNDERSTAND."

"THE COMPUTER CONSOLE BEING A NATURAL SOURCE OF RAW MATERIALS ENABLING THE NANITES TO MULTIPLY AND GROW."

"I TRANSMITTED A SIGNAL, FATHER, TRIGGERING A GROWTH SPURT IN THE NANITES."

"BUT FOR WHAT PURPOSE..?"



AHA!!!

HOW
BRILLIANT!!
HOW UTTERLY
DEVIOUS!!!

YOU'RE ABLE TO
COMMUNICATE
WITH THE NANITES,
AND THUS *MANIPU-*
LATE THEM TO DO
MY BIDDING!!

"WITH NONE OF THE KING'S *DUPES*
ANY THE *WISER!* I LOVE IT!!!"

IS THERE A
PROBLEM,
JULES?

-- BUT I MAY
HAVE BEEN
MISTAKEN!

I COULD'VE SWORN
THE *CALIBRATION*
WAS A BIT OFF ON
THE *RETINA SCAN* --

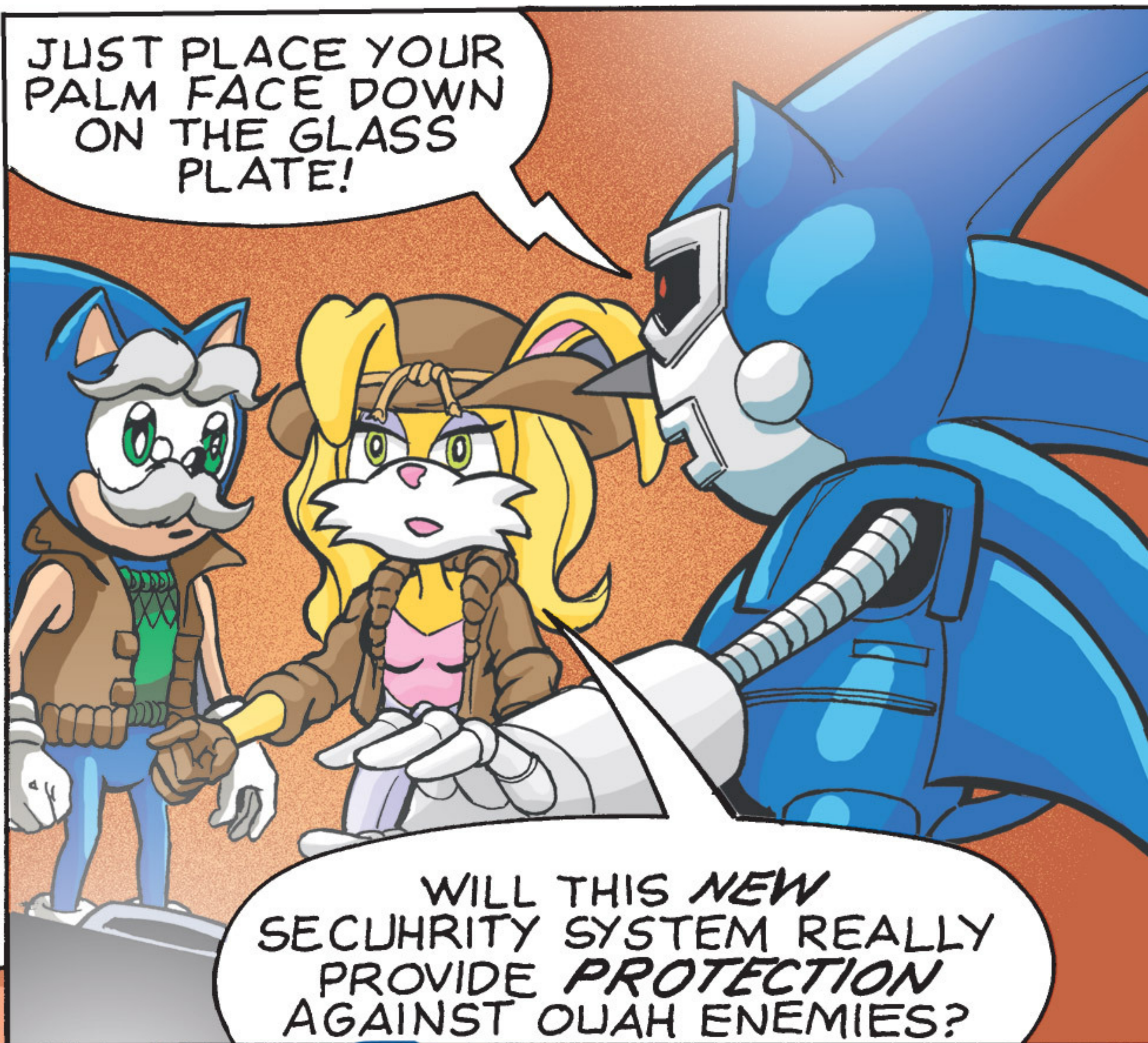
THAT'S A *RELIEF!*
WE'VE HAD ENOUGH
SETBACKS WITH THIS
PROJECT AS IT IS!



SO THE *NANITES*
HAVE INFILTRATED
THE *ROBOTICIZED*
HEDGEHOG'S
SYSTEM?

AFFIRMATIVE.

NEXT!
STEP RIGHT
UP, BUNNIE!



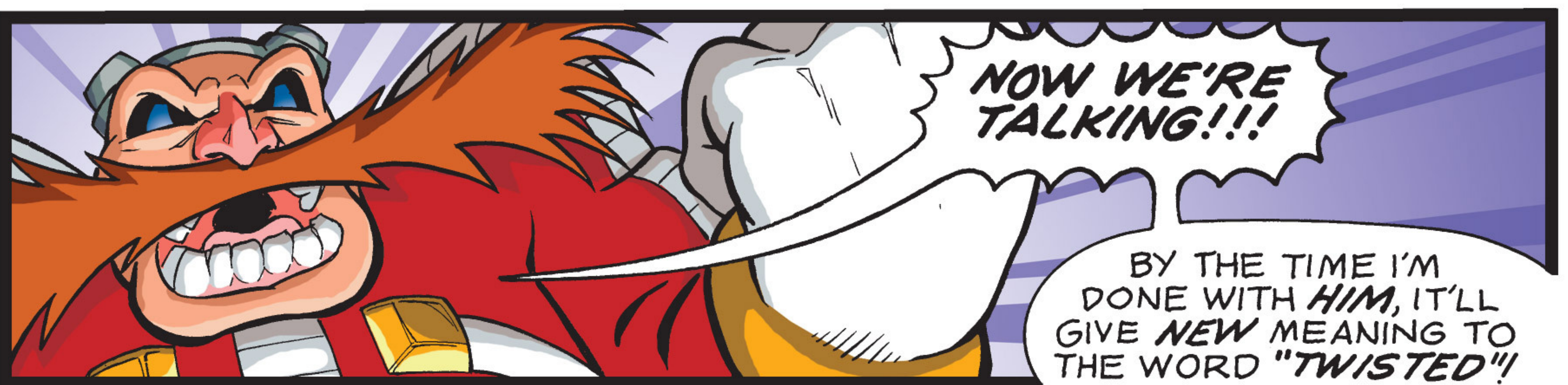
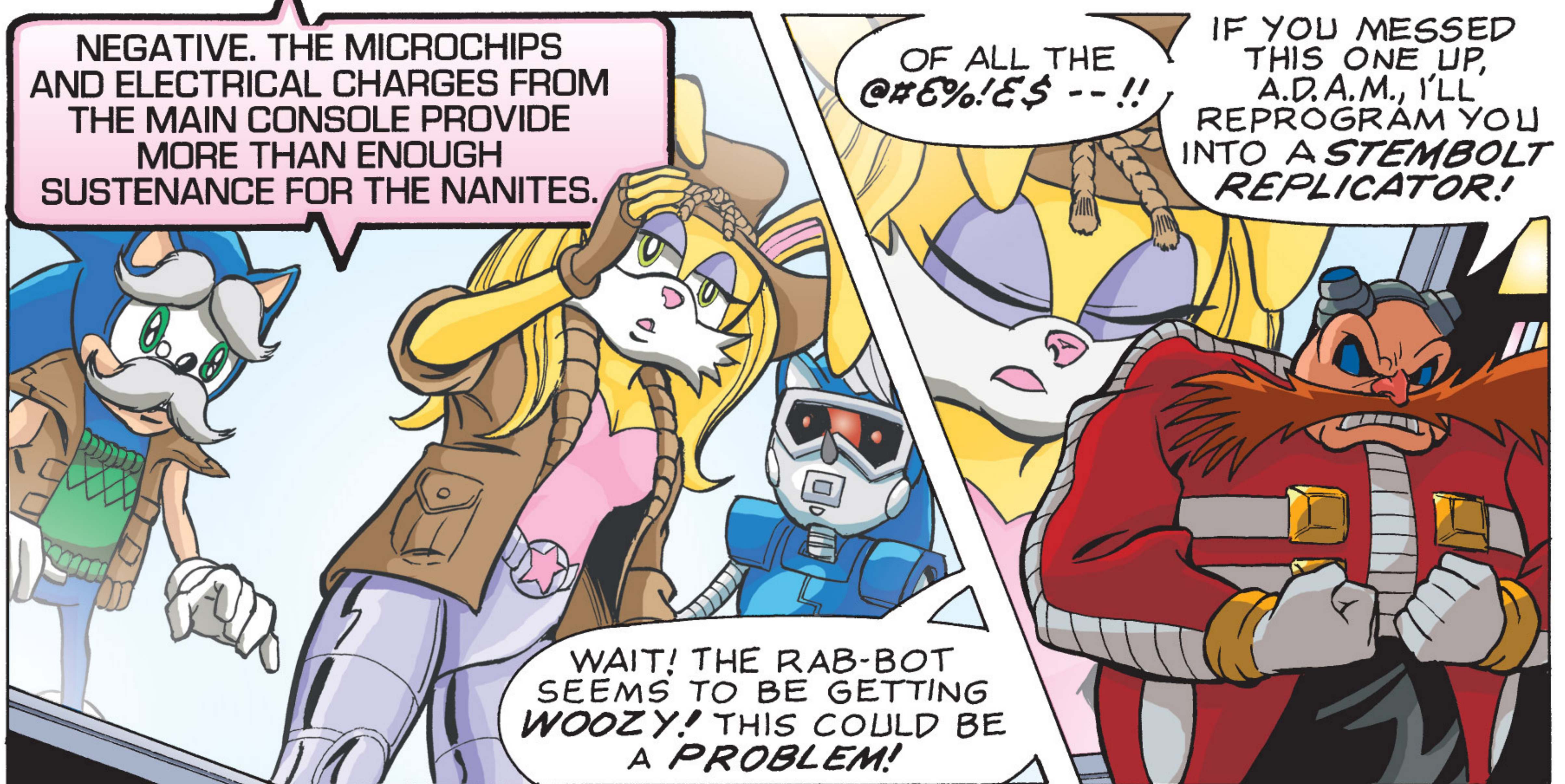
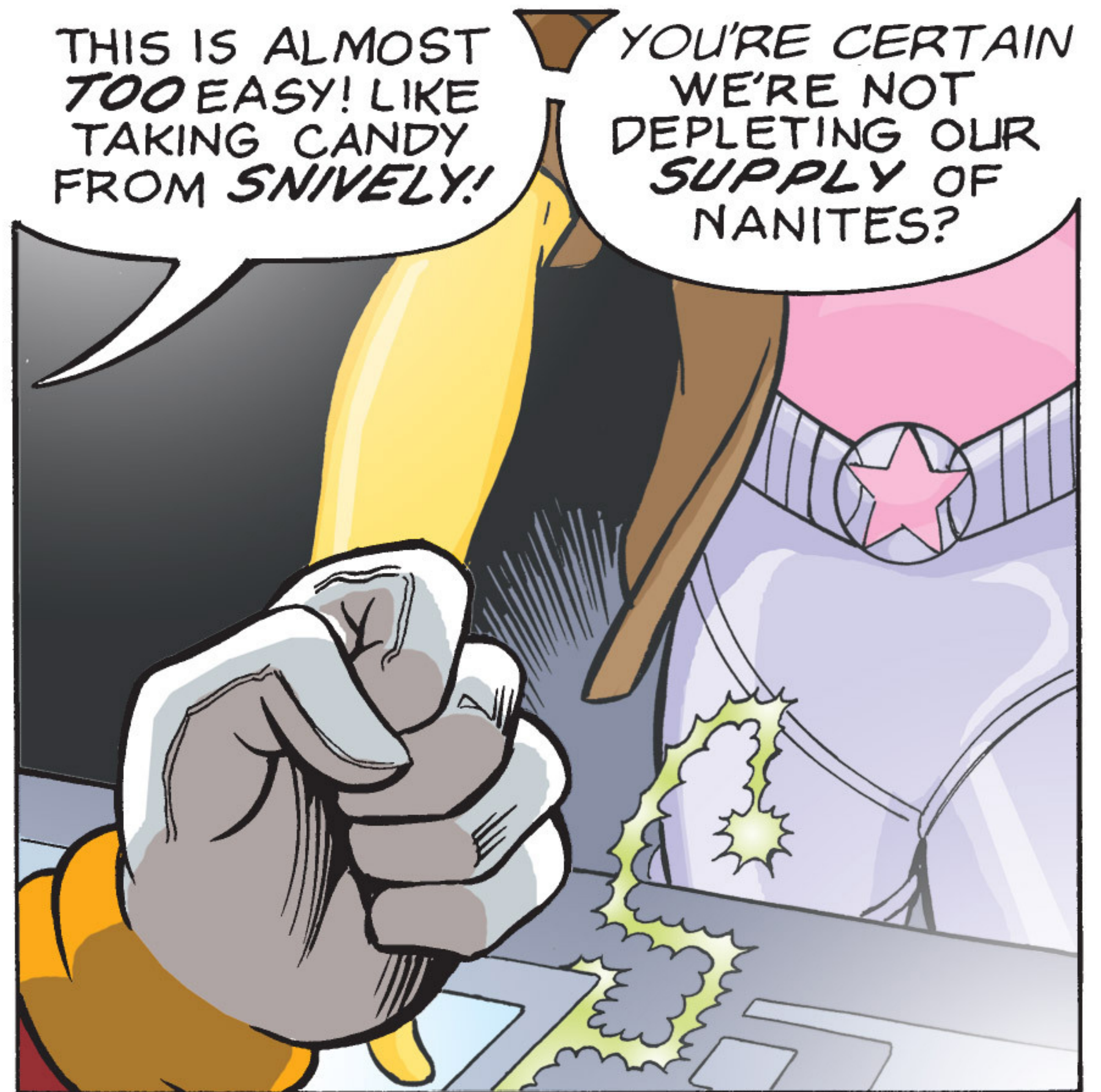
JUST PLACE YOUR
PALM FACE DOWN
ON THE GLASS
PLATE!

WILL THIS *NEW*
SECURITY SYSTEM REALLY
PROVIDE *PROTECTION*
AGAINST OUAH ENEMIES?

"BEYOND A
DOUBT!!"

SUCH
SWEETNESS!
SUCH *FAITH!*

WHO COULD
POSSIBLY
BETRAY SUCH
A *TRUSTING*
YOUNG SOUL?



UNFORTUNATELY, THE HEDGEHOG IS ORGANIC AND NOT SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE NANITES--

D'OH!

THEN HOW DO YOU *EXPLAIN* THE NANITES ON THAT *BLASTED TURTLE*?

-- WHEREAS THE CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF THE SHELL IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE NANITES.

AS THE HEDGEHOG OFFERED NO SUCH COMPATIBILITY, OUR NEXT SUBJECT MORE THAN MEETS THE MINIMUM REQUIRED STANDARDS.

NO KIDDING!

THE *PRINCESS* RELIES HEAVILY ON THAT *PORTABLE MAINFRAME*!

DON'T SPARE THE *LITTLE BUGGERS* ON *THIS ONE*, A.D.A.M.!

"YES! EXCELLENT, A.D.A.M.!"

THE PLAN IS PERFECT! FINALLY...

I'M BACK IN BUSINESS!!!

I'LL NOW KNOW *EVERYTHING* THEY DO AND SAY --

-- AND WHEN THEY *LEAST* EXPECT IT, THAT'S THE TIME I'LL *STRIKE*!

HAHAHAHAHAHA